

U.S. urges Israeli restraint

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States has asked Israel to refrain from retaliating against Syria for a hang-glider attack by a Syrian-backed group that killed six Israeli soldiers, State Department officials said Monday. U.S. diplomats have also asked Syria to use its influence with the Palestinian group that carried out the Nov. 25 attack in northern Israel to prevent similar actions by the group, the officials said. "We've asked both sides to exercise restraint," said one official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "It's much better to avoid escalation between Syria and Israel," he added, noting that the two sides had enjoyed relatively calm relations in recent months. In Tel Aviv, the Israeli prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir confirmed that Israel had been asked not to retaliate during U.S.-Soviet summit for the hang-glider raid. He said Israel would take its own decision when and how to respond to the attack. "There are some requests of this character you've mentioned," Mr. Shamir told reporters at a rally in support of Soviet Jewish emigration.

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Aziz meets with Shultz

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iraq's foreign minister said Monday he reiterated his country's desire for an end to the Iran-Iraq war at a meeting with U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz on the eve of the U.S.-Soviet summit. Tariq Aziz said he hoped the Iran-Iraq war would be "one of the major issues that will be discussed between" President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev. Asked if he was promised by Mr. Shultz that the United States would pressure the Soviet Union on the situation in the Gulf, Mr. Aziz said, "We did not discuss summit business." Besides bilateral issues, Mr. Aziz said he told Mr. Shultz that Iraq wants peace, welcomes a U.N. resolution calling for a ceasefire in the Iran-Iraq war and is "ready to implement it fully." Iran has insisted Iraq be branded "the aggressor" in the war before it considers a ceasefire. Mr. Aziz spent about 30 minutes with Mr. Shultz. Mr. Aziz is to see U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar on Tuesday.

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Crown Prince returns

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan returned to Amman on Monday after a four-day private visit to the Netherlands and Luxembourg. The Crown Prince was received upon his arrival by Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Wahab Al-Jabali, Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid and a number of senior officials. Prior to his return, Prince Hassan sent a message to Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Akef Al-Jarrah, congratulating him on the success of an operation he underwent last week at a hospital in Austin, Texas. In his cable, the Crown Prince wished Mr. Favez a speedy recovery and a safe return home.

talks scheduled on Jordan-Iraq cooperation

AMMAN (OPECNA) — Bilateral cooperation between Iraq and Jordan will be discussed at a meeting here Friday of a standing committee which meets once a year. The two-day meeting will review progress achieved in various sectors where bilateral agreements exist, including oil, industry, trade and culture. The delegation will be headed by Deputy Prime Minister Yassin Ramadan, while the Jordanian side will be led by Minister Zaid Rifai.

iqi leader gets bay message

BAHRAIN (R) — An envoy delivered a letter from Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi for Iraqi President Saddam Hussein on Monday, the Iraqi News Agency (IJA) reported. It did not reveal contents, but said the envoy, Iraq's Charge d'Affaires in Baghdad Hassan Al-Shawesh, discussed bilateral relations when he delivered the letter to Izzat Ibrahim, vice-president of Iraq's Revolutionary Command Council.

Sheikh Zayed visit Egypt

UDHABI (R) — The president of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Sheikh Zayed bin Sultan Nahayan, accepted an invitation on Monday to visit Egypt for the restoration of full diplomatic ties. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak extended an invitation in a telephone conversation with Sheikh Zayed during which they discussed the Iran-Iraq war, the Emirates News Agency (WAM) reported. WAM said the date of the visit, the first since 1967, would be agreed later.

to Gulf areas cleared mine-free

UDHABI (R) — The southern and central Gulf areas are clear of mines after being scoured by sweepers of five West European nations, a Dutch naval commander said on Monday. Captain van Spall, commander of the minesweepers, told Reuters that the Dutch-Belgian-British force had swept more than 500 miles of sea off Bahrain. "The area that we searched is an area that we are not aware of any mine area of the Gulf east of 51 degrees longitude runs 30 miles off Bahrain."

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Government presents JD 1.075 b budget for 1988

JD 69.9m deficit to be covered through controlled spending, loans and better collection of revenues • Local income estimated at 97.7% of recurrent expenditure

JD 256.1m allocated for economic development • JD 256m for defence and security • JD 243.2m for public and financial administration • JD 177.7m for servicing local and foreign loans • JD 142.4m for social and cultural development

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — The Government on Monday presented a JD 1075.4 million draft budget for 1988 to the Lower House of Parliament for discussion and approval. The draft budget reflected a 6.6 per cent increase over the reestimated 1987 budget.



Dr. Hanna Odeh

The deficit of the 1988 draft budget is estimated at JD 66.9 million and "will be covered by a projected improvement of the local sources of revenue, by controlling of public expenditures and through local and foreign borrowing," said Finance Minister Hanna Odeh who presented the budget to the House.

In a lengthy statement to the

House, Dr. Odeh outlined the main features of the draft budget, the government's objectives and the fundamentals of the Kingdom's monetary policies.

He noted that the recent collapse of the major international stock markets, along with the continuation of the Iran-Iraq war and the Israeli-Arab conflict, had adversely affected the rate of

development growth of the countries of the region.

"But we (in Jordan) have been able to keep the negative effects at their minimum level," Dr. Odeh told Parliament at its ordinary session chaired by Deputy Speaker Ismail Hijazi substituting for Speaker Akef Al-Fayez who is undergoing medical treatment in the U.S.

The minister did not elaborate, but later during the session, Prime Minister Zaid Rifai disclosed that the amount of Jordan's accumulated deficit had reached JD 254.7 million.

Mr. Rifai urged Arab countries to fulfill their financial obligations towards Jordan saying that if

(Continued on page 4)

Reagan-Gorbachev summit begins today in Washington

Soviet leader secures Thatcher's endorsement of INF agreement during stop-over in England

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — Soviet leader Mikhail S. Gorbachev on Monday headed for summit talks with U.S. President Ronald Reagan that will crown their agreement to dismantle their medium-range nuclear missiles.

The Soviet leader, making his first visit to the United States, was to arrive with his wife, Raisa, in Washington in late afternoon (midnight Jordan time).

Mr. Gorbachev, who stopped over to meet with British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher outside London, received an endorsement from Mrs. Thatcher for the accord.

"The treaty which Mr. Gorbachev is going to sign is a historic treaty," she said after two hours of talks with the Soviet leader. She said she told Mr. Gorbachev she hoped the United States and Soviet Union would go on to sign a treaty halving their long-range nuclear missiles next year.

Mr. Gorbachev said after talks with Mrs. Thatcher he hoped the Washington summit would help to restructure international relations and deepen East-West understanding.

U.S. and Soviet officials said in interviews on American television that they hoped progress could be made on the strategic weapons so that such a treaty could be signed at a second summit meeting in Moscow next year.

U.S. arms control negotiator Maynard Glitman also was flying to Washington from Geneva on Monday, carrying the 150-page text of the intermediate-range nuclear forces (INF) treaty in his briefcase.

Mr. Glitman's rush to Washington on the eve of the summit underscored the difficulties that confronted American and Soviet negotiators in meeting the deadline for completing the final draft of the treaty, which

would scrap all medium-range missiles over the next three years.

Details of the treaty were made public on Monday.

U.S. negotiator Kenneth L. Adelman said each country would have the option of destroying up to 100 of its banned missiles by launching them — without warheads — into the air within six months after the treaty is signed.

Mr. Adelman said the Soviets already had decided to take this option, although the United States is still undecided.

White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater told reporters that Mrs. Thatcher had telephoned Mr. Reagan to brief him about her meeting with Mr. Gorbachev.

Fitzwater, holding the first formal briefing for some 7,000 reporters at the summit press centre, said Mrs. Thatcher told Mr. Reagan that "the secretary general indicated he was optimistic about the talks" in Washington.

Arabs urge superpowers not to forget Palestine

WASHINGTON (R) — The Arab League protested on Monday at what it called the lopsided attention given to Jewish immigration to Israel at the superpower summit, saying it could have dangerous consequences.

"For the U.S. to inject this issue at this time will further and fuel to the already explosive situation in the Mideast," said the Arab League's U.S. representative, Clovis Maksoud, in a summit- eve statement.

"The disproportionate attention given to the issue of Jewish immigration during the Reagan-Gorbachev summit is very disturbing to the Arab World and a portent of dangerous consequences," said the Arab League statement.

"What is mind-boggling for the Arabs is the instant manner with which congressmen and administration officials swallow the Israeli line on this matter, while at the same time ignore completely the rights of the Palestinian refugees to return to their homes — a right that has been recognised by the United States and systematically violated by Israel."

In war-torn Lebanon on Monday, several hundred Palestinian children appealed to Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev to help them to return to their homeland and live in peace like other children.

King and Saudi leader review Gulf and Mideast situation

RIYADH (Agencies) — His Majesty King Hussein held talks on Monday with King Fahd bin Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on efforts to end the Iran-Iraq war and settle the Arab-Israeli conflict.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said the talks between the two leaders centred "on recent efforts aimed at bolstering Arab solidarity and serving the higher interests of the Arab Nation in light of the resolutions adopted at the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit conference held in Amman."

"The two leaders also reviewed the latest developments in the Iran-Iraq war, exchanged views on major issues on the Arab scene and discussed means of enhancing Jordanian-Saudi relations," Petra said.

The talks were attended on the Jordanian side by Prime Minister Zaid Rifai and Armed Forces Commander-in-Chief Field Marshal Sharif Zaid bin Shaker. On the Saudi side, the meeting was attended by Crown Prince and Deputy Prime Minister Prince Abdullah bin Abdul Aziz, Second Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz.

King Fahd hosted a dinner in honour of the King and the delegation accompanying them. The dinner was attended by



His Majesty King Hussein is seen off upon his departure for Riyadh on Monday by Royal Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh and Chief Chamberlain Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid (left).

senior Saudi officials.

Petra said the talks between the two leaders would also deal with cooperation and relations between the two countries. His Majesty's visit is within the framework of continuing coordination and consultations between the two countries, it said.

The King was seen off upon his departure by Court Minister Adnan Abu Odeh, Chief Chamberlain, Prince Ra'ed Ibn Zaid and senior Royal Court officials.

Saudi Ambassador in Amman Mohammad Al-Fahd Al-Issa accompanied the King to the talks.

Petra also said the two leaders would also review the outcome of

last month's Arab summit in Amman.

The Arab summit called for international action to force Iran to accept a ceasefire under United Nations Security Council Resolution 598.

Although King Fahd did not attend the summit, citing health problems, Saudi Arabia lauded its outcome.

Since the summit, King Hussein has sent envoys throughout Europe and Asia to brief leaders there on its outcome.

During the Amman summit, the King crowned a reconciliation between Iraq and Syria and the monarch has since visited Baghdad and Damascus.

Peres advocates Israeli demilitarisation of Gaza

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israeli foreign minister, Shimon Peres, raised the prospect of withdrawing Israeli troops from the occupied Gaza Strip during an angry exchange with right-wing parliamentarians on Monday.

Aides said Mr. Peres was responding to demands for Israel to annex the Gaza Strip.

The demands came after an Israeli settler was stabbed to death in Gaza City on Sunday.

"What is better for our security — that we police the Gaza Strip or that it be demilitarised under our supervision? What is preferable or what is more dangerous — 300 square kilometres of Gaza Strip or 650,000 hostile inhabitants?" Mr. Peres asked parliament's foreign affairs and defence committee.

An aide later said the foreign minister meant the idea in the context of a negotiated peace settlement and was not proposing a unilateral Israeli troop withdrawal.

Palestinian activists have killed several Israelis in Gaza in the last year, including the military police chief, a Shin Bet security man and three Jewish settlers.

Mr. Peres, leader of the Labour Party, attacked Jewish settlers who have taken over nearly a third of the land in the Gaza Strip with government backing.

"Where is the logic? What do we gain from the settlements in the heart of that district? And what kind of Jewish morality is it to shoot a schoolgirl?" he asked.

A Jewish settler was charged in an Israeli court on Friday with murdering a 17-year-old Palestinian girl in her school courtyard last month after demonstrators stoned settlers' cars.

Mr. Peres, a former prime minister, also spoke against Jewish settlement in Gaza, saying: "What is the wisdom of building settlements? Soon there will be a million Arabs there."

According to Israeli estimates, there will be one million Arabs in Gaza by the year 2000. Israeli plans call for 30,000 settlers to be in Gaza at that point.

Mr. Peres' comments followed a warning by a British peer that an unarmed civilian uprising on the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

Lord Winchelsea, a member of the middle-road Liberal Party, in a letter to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher explained the tension he experienced when he led a recent fact-finding visit to the occupied territories with other senior members of his party.

He said there could be a "human catastrophe" that would dwarf the massacres of Palestinian refugees in the Sabra and Shatila camps in Lebanon in September 1982.

France launches crackdown on Iranian rebel movement

PARIS (Agencies) — French police arrested several dozen Iranian exiles on Monday in crackdown on Iranian opposition following the release of two French hostages by a pro-Tehran group in Lebanon.

The Interior Ministry said the Iranians were members of the opposition Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, and would be expelled for carrying out "militant actions which threaten public order. It did not specify the exact number involved.

France is set to improve ties with Iran after the release of hostages Roger Augue and Jean-Louis Normandin in Beirut last month. This was swiftly followed by the resolution of a five-month diplomatic crisis between Paris and Tehran.

Iran denied having any role in the release of Mr. Normandin and Augue but said if France wanted to continue improving relations it would have to crack down on the Iranian opposition in France and repay promptly a \$1 billion loan, part of which was repaid last year just before another French hostage was let go.

French officials said recently that at least another portion of the loan — made in 1975 by the Shah of Iran for a uranium enrichment project — could be repaid soon if negotiations went well. But they denied that money

was being paid in exchange for hostages.

Mujahadeen spokesman Behzad Naziri Monday said all those detained by the French authorities were political refugees with their papers in order. He said among them were elderly people with heart conditions.

"This concerns the bargaining which is going on now," Naziri said in reference to allegations that France is bartering with Iran following the release of the two hostages. "The French government is paying a heavy ransom to the Khomeini regime."

The regime of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini admits to having influence over pro-Iranian Lebanese groups holding foreign hostages, including two French diplomats and a French journalist.

In June 1986, France expelled Mujahadeen leader Massoud Rajavi to fulfil one of three conditions set by Iran for normalisation of relations with Khomeini's Islamic Republic. Two weeks later, two French hostages were freed. Mr. Rajavi installed his new headquarters in Baghdad.

The Mujahadeen are considered the most threatening of the numerous opposition groups. Traditionally armed guerrillas, they have set up a National Liberation Army (NLA) that claims successful attacks against Iranian forces in northwestern Iran.

Lower House endorses 1987 budget supplement

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament on Monday endorsed by a majority vote a JD 1.4 million supplement to the 1987 budget, but only after an intense debate among deputies on the need to curb public spending and after securing a government pledge to control such spending.

Although Prime Minister Zaid Rifai told the House, the Cabinet agreed to the House's previous calls for the need to narrow down the deficit, he said the government could not lower its spending.

"We cannot take any measures to reduce our spending. But, we are taking steps to control public spending through channelling it in the right direction for the benefit of the citizens and the national economy," the prime minister said.

Mr. Rifai said the total deficit in the two supplements to the 1986 and 1987 budgets stood at JD 45.4 million and not at JD 420 million, as suggested by Amman deputy Leith Shbeilat. The 1987 budget stood at JD 1.019 billion with a deficit of JD 39.6 million.

The prime minister also indicated that Jordan's accumulated deficit was JD 259.7 million and not JD 500 million, as put by Mr. Shbeilat.

He expressed hope that the Arab states would meet their financial commitments to Jordan. In light of the successful conclusion of the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman, he gave no figure on the over- commitments which were to be paid to Jordan by Arab countries in line with pledges made at the 1978 Baghdad summit to support the steadfastness of frontlines.

Mr. Rifai indicated that the government's accumulated deficit many times over.

Four months ago, Parliament approved a JD 141 million spending beyond the 1986 budget but legislators were promised by the government that it would not resort to issuing supplements without prior approval by the House and Lower House. This promise ended a dispute between the government and lawmakers since any spending that exceeded allocations made in the 1986 budget should have prior approval by the two houses.

Mr. Rifai said that the JD 1.4 million supplement did not represent expenditures made in 1986 as such, but were also an accumulation of spending done between 1972 and 1985.

The JD 61.4 million supplement for 1987 did not detail the deficit. It provided a breakdown of the total figure under the following provisions: JD 26,035,300 (recurrent expenditure), JD 23,101,500 (capital expenditure), and JD 12,208,000 (development expenditure) that is financed through loans and aid packages.

However, Mr. Rifai explained that the projected deficit for 1987 was JD 88.7 million — JD 39.6 million as expected in the 1987 budget plus the deficit in the supplement — JD 49.1 million.

No details were available on projects which benefited from the spending envisaged by this supplement. But discussions among deputies revealed that JD 12,208,000 was spent by the government for the purchase of the Queen Alia Hospital, and another JD 35,916 million went for financing a project to build the Azraq-Jafr highway.

In addition to endorsing the supplementary budget draft law, the House referred to its financial committee the JD 1.075 billion draft budget for 1988 and endorsed a number of laws covering military servicemen, the Jordan Economic and Social Organisation for retired servicemen and others.

The House Financial Committee, which studied the 1987 supplement, made several remarks, one of which said that "a number of items included in the supplement were not that urgent and could have been delayed to become part of the 1988 budget."

Although the committee said it was well-aware that Jordan's revenues from local and international sources were limited, it reiterated previous calls to control public spending, in general, and current expenditures, in particular, and to improve the means of collecting local revenues and lowering the budgeted deficits.

Deputies Shbeilat, Riyadh Al Nawaishah (Karak) and Abdullah Al Akaleh (Tafilah), who are members of the House Financial Committee, made a number of reservations on the committee's decisions regarding the supplement. Mr. Ahmad Kofahi (Irbid) said he agreed with Dr. Akaleh's reservations over the necessity of including the Azraq-Jafr highway in the supplement. Describing the supplements issued with such large amounts as "an unhealthy phenomena," Mr. Kofahi called for cancelling this project and channelling the money into decreasing the general public debt and creating new jobs for Jordan's unemployed citizens. He said there were other roads that could act as a substitute for this projected highway.

Moreover, Dr. Nawaishah said the issuing of the supplement only reveals the insistence on increasing expenditure through loans and "piling up the national debt beyond bearable boundaries."

Mr. Shbeilat, who termed as "dangerous" the process of financing the projected deficit through direct loans to the treasury, as opposed to increasing savings and exports, called on the government to commit itself not to issue any future budgets based on projected deficits.

Dr. Nawaishah said he believed that "90 per cent of expenditures included in the supplement" fall short of being categorised as urgent spending.

Mr. Rifai explained to Deputy Shbeilat that the entire budgeting process was based on "estimates of both the revenues and expenditures."

Mr. Rifai questioned what Mr. Shbeilat's suggested measure should be the amount of direct taxes fall below the expected level: "Would you suggest raising the direct taxes to meet the budget's projected figures? Or would you suggest increasing duty 'customs' at a time when the consumer, the citizen and the producer are urging the government to ease the tax burdens? Or would you suggest the halting of all developmental projects, eventually leading to an economic recession and adding more financial burdens to the treasury due to a decline in incoming revenues?"

The prime minister said it was easy to prepare a budget under the slogan "a budget without deficit," but added that due to various considerations, the deficit was there to stay.

Despite all of these conditions, "we have maintained the stability of prices, lowered the deficit in the balance of trade by decreasing imports and increasing exports, have maintained our revenues derived from local taxes and have supported the local production sector," he said.

Reiterating Jordan's economic and financial policies, Mr. Rifai said the government was adopting constant measures to improve the process of collecting local revenues without adding any new financial burdens on the citizens or on the economic sectors. "All our policies aim at revitalising the economic activities, which, in turn, would improve local revenues," the prime minister stressed. He said the government managed to cover 91 per cent of its 1987 current expenditures from local revenues and expected the ratio to increase to 96 per cent during 1988. "Our aim is to cover all our current expenditures from local revenues," he said.

Mr. Rifai explained that public spending was important for increasing the gross domestic product (GDP), and for maintaining the Kingdom's financial commitments to local and international sources.

On capital expenditure covered by Arab aid programmes and local as well as foreign loans, Mr. Rifai explained that aid given to Jordan from the Arab states "was sometimes affected by the economic conditions in the donor countries. Hence, we sometimes resort to national and foreign borrowing to execute important programmes aimed at improving the quality of life for Jordanians."

However, Mr. Rifai indicated that the government was adhering to certain fiscal policies to lower Jordan's national debt. Under this arrangement, the government is repaying its general public debt by amounts that exceed any new borrowing.

Another problem, the prime minister noted, was unbalanced tenor between the date of collecting local revenues, such as taxes and other fees, and the time of the actual spending. Hence, the government is forced to resort to short-term borrowing to meet these commitments, which, in turn, renders new interests that cannot be evaluated in the draft budget.

Responding to remarks made by Dr. Akaleh on a contract which was awarded to a coalition of two Indian construction companies for work on a 180-kilometre section of the new Azraq-Jafr highway linking Jordan and Iraq, Mr. Rifai said the award was given to the two companies upon the request of the Indian government. He told Dr. Akaleh that a parallel offer made by another Indian company could not be considered as official since it was in the form of a letter to the Ministry of Public Works and came immediately after the contract was signed.

The contract was signed earlier this year, and work has already started on the stretch.

Dr. Akaleh expressed reservations over the choice of an offer which he said was at least \$30 million higher than the offer made by the other company. Mr. Rifai corrected the figure, saying the difference between the offer given by the Indian coalition company and the other was JD 3 million (\$10 million) and not \$50 million.

The coalition company will build the road from reinforced concrete blocks — a technique which will utilise around 4.1 million tonnes of cement produced by the ailing Jordan South Cement factory at a cost of nearly JD 8.5 million.

The prime minister said that the balance of trade between Jordan and India was in favour of the Kingdom, with India importing Jordanian potash, phosphates and fertilisers worth more than \$100 million. He said that in addition to maintaining the level of imports of Jordanian potash, fertilisers and phosphates, India would increase its imports of these three minerals to a level equal to 30 per cent of the contract's total value.

Mr. Rifai explained that the Indian government asked Jordan to award construction contract to Indian companies to be named by the cabinet in New Delhi in view of the fact that Jordan was unable to import more Indian goods as a means to correct the imbalance in bilateral trade relations.

Since India was a main market for Jordanian products and the government is keen on maintaining that, Jordan agreed to the Indian government's request to award the contract to a coalition of two Indian companies, according to the prime minister.

The price of the contract, Mr. Rifai said, was near the estimated cost made by Jordanian officials from the Ministry of Public Works and based on the specifications of major Jordanian highways. Following negotiations between the two sides, the Indian coalition agreed to lower its initial demand for the road's construction from JD 38.5 million to JD 35.916 million.

Mr. Rifai stated another reservation over a \$60 million loan entered between the government and Banco de Brazil for the purchase of vehicles for the Public Security Department and said "such purchases were not on the list of our urgent priorities in such a difficult financial situation."

Mr. Rifai pointed out that the correct figure for the loan is \$46 million and not \$60 million, as suggested by the Tafilah deputy. He said that Mr. Akaleh's remarks represented his "personal view" and not the official view which decides on the security forces' need for vehicles, equipment and machinery.

The session also ratified two loan agreements between the government of Jordan and the Saudi Fund for Development and the Kuwaiti Fund for Arab Socioeconomic Development, respectively. The former loan will be used for financing part of the Faculty of Sciences at the Jordan University of Sciences and Technology and the latter will be used to fund phase two of the Aqaba Thermal Power Station.

AMMAN — Minister of Occupied Territories Affairs Marwan Daudin on Monday denounced an Israeli measure aimed at depriving the Jerusalem District Electricity Company (JDEC) of part of its concession area in the occupied territories. The minister said Jordan, however, "can do little to block" the Israeli authorities' decision which, he said, is ultimately designed to force a de facto closure of the Arab firm.

"Although Jordan is a legitimate authority on the West Bank, it is, practically, away from the scene in the occupied territories," the minister told the Jordan Times.

Reports coming from the West Bank on Monday said that the Israeli occupation authorities have already disconnected Jewish settlements in Jerusalem from the JDEC, linking them to the power grid supplied by the Israel Electric Corporation (IEC).

The switchover, which was carried out under police guard, came three weeks in advance of the expiration of the JDEC's 30-year concession and in the wake of a Knesset bill to issue the JDEC a

new concession for only 12 years, provided it is reduced to exclude Jewish settlements and army bases.

The company's workers have charged that the disconnections were meant to intimidate the company into accepting the new concession terms, which would threaten the existence of the financially-troubled company.

Sources on the JDEC board said that the disconnections were illegal and imposed by force. Reuters quoted the sources as saying that the board was meeting to issue a statement that would reject Israeli offers of a new concession lasting until the year 2000. Approximately 500 JDEC staff now risk being laid off should the Israeli measure be implemented.

Mr. Daudin said that "we asked the company's officials not to bow to Israeli pressures aimed at imposing the new concession terms, since they entailed a political gain" for the Jewish state.

The company's acting chairman of the board, Hanna Nasser, was quoted as saying, "It is up to the (Israeli) ministry of energy to do whatever it wants, whatever it likes." "We are now going to seek all possibilities to stop the

ministry of energy from doing this in our concession area," said Mr. Nasser, who held talks on this matter with Prime Minister Zaid Rifai in Amman on Nov. 20.

In a recent interview with the Jordan Times, Mr. Nasser said Mr. Rifai had promised to help offset JDEC debts of approximately \$8.5 million, but urged the company to seek the renewal of the 30-year contract with the Israeli Electricity Company and increase its profit margin of 15 per cent.

Mr. Nasser, however, maintained that "any financial support to the JDEC by the Kingdom will not bear fruit as long as the concession contract is not renewed under the same terms."

The current contract, which was granted in 1957 by the Jordanian government, is based on a concession given to the company 99 years ago by the Ottoman authorities.

In his interview on Monday, Mr. Daudin said Jordan has continuously supported the company by funnelling approximately \$35 million in aid to help improve its financial situation. The Kingdom has maintained its assistance since the Israeli occupation of the Arab territories, he said.

WHO conference urges information exchange on water supply, treatment

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh on Monday called for the creation of a regional water information network to ensure the supply of fresh drinking water and lessen the damage wastewater causes to the environment.

The minister's speech was delivered by the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Health Suleiman

Subeithi at the opening of a World Health Organisation (WHO) regional conference on information exchange in water supply and treatment.

Dr. Hamzeh emphasised the importance of the stored information in the provision of clear, fresh drinking water in a complex, developing, urban society. "Environmental health and drinking water have been upgraded to top priority in developmental planning because of the

population increase, particularly in urban areas, industrial and agricultural growth and the public's heightened social and cultural awareness, which has led to increased water consumption."

Dr. Hamzeh asserted that "Jordan, following His Majesty King Hussein's motto that 'Man is our most valuable asset,' has done its utmost to improve general health, environmental health and to ensure the supply of fresh drinking water."

Hamzeh calls for pressure on Israel to license building of Arab hospital in Jerusalem

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh on Monday called on the European Community members and other friendly countries to pressure Israel into licensing the first Arab hospital in Jerusalem since its occupation in 1967.

Dr. Hamzeh said that preparations for the establishment of the Arab Jerusalem Hospital are ready and that JD 50,000 from Jordan and \$150,000 from the World Health Organisation (WHO) have been allocated as initial instalments for building the hospital. "Why are the Israeli authorities taking so much time when the money and personnel are ours?" the minister asked.

Dr. Hamzeh said that during the WHO conference in Geneva last May, he approached the friendly delegations on this issue, and a Vatican representative spoke to the Israeli representative at the conference.

"The Israelis did not answer the Vatican representative but said that they will try to ease the way for the licence. This was six months ago, and the occupying authorities are still refusing to license the Arab hospital," the minister added.

Addressing a group of journalists at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Hamzeh said that the Council of Arab Health Ministers decided to fund the project on a yearly basis, and that the Islamic summit in Kuwait supported the hospital's establishment.

The minister said that Jerusalem has not had an Arab hospital since the closure of the Hospice Hospital by the Israeli authorities two years ago. The hospital was turned into an Israeli police station.

Dr. Hamzeh was not the only person lobbying for pressure on the Israelis to permit the building of the hospital. Dr. Yasser Obeid, the health director in Jerusalem, who is in Amman

during his discussion with West Bank health directors on Sunday. He said that the Health Ministry would grant West Bankers on scholarships to specialise in medical fields which are lacking in the occupied territories. "We will treat the West Bank doctors in the occupied territories in the exact same manner as those in the East Bank and will support them through the welfare societies there," the minister stressed.

Dr. Hamzeh also announced that four health centres, all of which will provide mother and child care services, will open in Hebron, Tulkarim, Nablus and Jenin, in coordination with the local welfare societies.

The minister also said that, for the first time, dispensing of medicine in Jerusalem will occur in the same manner as in the East Bank to those who are medically insured.

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Dr. Hamzeh had earlier explained that Jordan does not want to absolve Israel of its responsibility towards the Arabs in the occupied territories by supporting health services there. "But we must help our brethren living under occupation in developing their health facilities, as a way to support for their steadfastness," the minister concluded.

Kanaan emphasises need for plan on informatics

AMMAN (Petra) — A regional seminar on national strategies for informatics was opened on Monday at the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) by Minister of Planning Taber Kanaan.

In his opening address, Dr. Kanaan said that Arab society, which seeks modernisation and the implementation of economic and social development schemes, ought to adopt proper strategies based on accurate data and modern technology.

"In Jordan, we have already started to organise information at a national level and within a defined strategy by establishing the data bank, which has won government approval," the minister said. "This system," he continued, "is designed to provide information to planners, decision-makers and researchers at all levels."

"A strategic plan on informatics is of extreme significance and should be regarded as a national duty, closely connected with the future of the entire Arab Nation."

Therefore, national strategies in individual Arab states should complement one another in form and essence," Dr. Kanaan said.

Taking part in the three-day meeting are delegates from Syria, Iraq, Kuwait, North Yemen, Lebanon, Libya, Bahrain, Qatar, Egypt, Sudan and Jordan, in addition to representatives of a number of Arab and international organisations, including the Arab League and the Economic and Social Commission of Western Asia (ESCWA).

Food security panel ends, urging coordination among Muslim states

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A high-powered group of economists and scientists on Monday urged the Islamic states to work jointly to achieve a sustainable food security in the Muslim World.

The call followed the conclusion of a three-day meeting held here by the Islamic Academy of Sciences which was formed earlier this year by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC).

The participants in the meeting, which was held at the Plaza Hotel, also called upon the Islamic decision-makers to promote policies and institutional mechanisms to facilitate integration and coordination to eliminate food shortages in the Muslim World.

The calls were contained in "a declaration of action" addressed to the leaders of the Muslim states and which included the participants' final conclusions on the issue of food security. The participants expressed hope that the decision-makers would heed the major points outlined in the declaration.

The participants also expressed the view that the meeting constituted the first of its kind towards developing a joint Islamic strategy to confront the scientific and technological challenges.

During the deliberations the participants concluded that the low level of coordination among Muslim governments, combined with weak trade and scientific exchange have worked together to further deteriorate the food security situation in the Muslim World.

Moreover, the participants noted that lack of awareness about the seriousness of the situation, along with inadequate utilisation of available resources and poor incentives for food producers and farmers, have contributed to tragedies caused by food shortages and famine in the Islamic countries. Therefore the meeting called on decision makers and planners to formulate a strategy for food security in the Muslim World. They appealed to Muslim states to mobilise the necessary human, scientific and financial resources to maximise food production.

W. German envoy to honour new director of Goethe Institute

AMMAN (J.T.) — West German ambassador to Jordan Herwig Harwig hosts a reception tonight in honour of the newly-appointed director of the Goethe Institute in Amman, Heinrich Reinström.

Mr. Reinström has represented the West German cultural centres in Beirut, Cairo, Caracas, Casablanca and Damascus. He has also served at the Goethe Institutes in Arosen, Bad Reichenhall, Blaubeuren, Marnau and Rottenburg.

According to a press release issued by the Goethe Institute in Amman, Mr. Reinström expressed happiness upon returning to Jordan. He said that he intended to work with his staff towards deepening and enhancing cultural and scientific relations between Jordan and West Germany.

Mr. Reinström pledged that, together with his staff, "we will do our best to meet your expectations and, thus, contribute effectively to the friendship between our countries."

WHO conference urges information exchange on water supply, treatment

By Sana Atiyeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh on Monday called for the creation of a regional water information network to ensure the supply of fresh drinking water and lessen the damage wastewater causes to the environment.

The minister's speech was delivered by the Under-Secretary of the Ministry of Health Suleiman

Subeithi at the opening of a World Health Organisation (WHO) regional conference on information exchange in water supply and treatment.

Dr. Hamzeh emphasised the importance of the stored information in the provision of clear, fresh drinking water in a complex, developing, urban society. "Environmental health and drinking water have been upgraded to top priority in developmental planning because of the

population increase, particularly in urban areas, industrial and agricultural growth and the public's heightened social and cultural awareness, which has led to increased water consumption."

Dr. Hamzeh asserted that "Jordan, following His Majesty King Hussein's motto that 'Man is our most valuable asset,' has done its utmost to improve general health, environmental health and to ensure the supply of fresh drinking water."

Hamzeh calls for pressure on Israel to license building of Arab hospital in Jerusalem

By Sana Atiyeh
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AMMAN — Minister of Health Zaid Hamzeh on Monday called on the European Community members and other friendly countries to pressure Israel into licensing the first Arab hospital in Jerusalem since its occupation in 1967.

Dr. Hamzeh said that preparations for the establishment of the Arab Jerusalem Hospital are ready and that JD 50,000 from Jordan and \$150,000 from the World Health Organisation (WHO) have been allocated as initial instalments for building the hospital. "Why are the Israeli authorities taking so much time when the money and personnel are ours?" the minister asked.

Dr. Hamzeh said that during the WHO conference in Geneva last May, he approached the friendly delegations on this issue, and a Vatican representative spoke to the Israeli representative at the conference.

"The Israelis did not answer the Vatican representative but said that they will try to ease the way for the licence. This was six months ago, and the occupying authorities are still refusing to license the Arab hospital," the minister added.

Addressing a group of journalists at the Ministry of Health, Dr. Hamzeh said that the Council of Arab Health Ministers decided to fund the project on a yearly basis, and that the Islamic summit in Kuwait supported the hospital's establishment.

The minister said that Jerusalem has not had an Arab hospital since the closure of the Hospice Hospital by the Israeli authorities two years ago. The hospital was turned into an Israeli police station.

Dr. Hamzeh was not the only person lobbying for pressure on the Israelis to permit the building of the hospital. Dr. Yasser Obeid, the health director in Jerusalem, who is in Amman

during his discussion with West Bank health directors on Sunday. He said that the Health Ministry would grant West Bankers on scholarships to specialise in medical fields which are lacking in the occupied territories. "We will treat the West Bank doctors in the occupied territories in the exact same manner as those in the East Bank and will support them through the welfare societies there," the minister stressed.

Dr. Hamzeh also announced that four health centres, all of which will provide mother and child care services, will open in Hebron, Tulkarim, Nablus and Jenin, in coordination with the local welfare societies.

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Don't fail us now

THE missile that landed in Kuwaiti territorial waters on Monday can be seen as nothing but a blatant sign of Iran's defiance of regional and international calls for peace in the Gulf and an effort on the part of Tehran to send a message to the superpower summit in Washington that the Iranians hold the upper hand in determining security and stability in the Gulf. Obviously, Iran sought to use this move as a resounding reminder of its potential to threaten the non-belligerent Arab states in the region, if only because of its proximity to the Gulf countries, and to push the superpowers towards Tehran's version of a solution to the seven-year-old Iran-Iraq war. This gesture, according to the thinking of Iran's revolutionary leaders, will convey to the superpowers and to the rest of the world that Tehran holds all the cards and it is up to the ayatollahs to decide whether to accept peace or to continue their policy of aggression in the region.

However, there is no avenue for superpower action other than towards putting an end to the Iranian defiance of Arab, regional and international efforts to find a just and honourable solution to the festering Gulf war. It has already been made clear to Iran that the superpowers could not easily be swayed towards Tehran's own recipe for settling the conflict. The U.S. stand is well-known; And the clearest sign yet of the Soviet attitude, which Washington describes as shielding the Iranians, came when Soviet President Andrei Gromyko accused Tehran on Saturday of doing little to end the bloody war and advised the Iranian leadership to accept a political solution.

By the same token, we cannot but hope that Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, who meets U.S. President Ronald Reagan today in Washington, will carry the same view to the summit and seek to come up with a decisive and firm joint stand with the U.S. towards putting an end to the war, which threatens not only the Arab states in the immediate vicinity of the conflict, but world peace and security, as well, since it is clear that Iran's expansionist goals are not limited to the Gulf or Middle East regions.

Here, Mr. Reagan and Mr. Gorbachev, you have one of the most serious challenges before you and it is our hope that you will not fail all those who have pinned great hopes on your summit.

ARABIC PRESS EDITORIALS

Al Rai: A plea to summit

AS the leaders of the Soviet Union and the United States begin their summit meeting in Washington many people ask: Will the two discuss human principles or just their mutual interests? No doubt the two leaders hold in their hands the fate of millions of people in the five continents, and so they should be responsible for all the sufferings and the agony of these people. Any success of the summit should be one that takes into consideration the principles of serving the world population. The two superpowers ought to sacrifice some of their own interests for the sake of achieving this noble goal and should give ample time in their discussions to the question of peace and security in a world which is witnessing numerous conflicts and wars. We do realise that the two world giants have their own problems and their disputes which must be overcome; but we also believe that Moscow and Washington should do something to end the Arab-Israeli conflict; the Iran-Iraq war and help end the crisis in Lebanon. They alone have the power to put an end to such problems in a just and equitable manner that would bring back stability and security to the Middle East. As the two leaders meet in Washington, we have hope that the discussion would turn to means of putting an end to the intransigence of Israel and Iran and contributing towards a settlement of the Middle East and the Gulf conflicts. We have hope that the two superpowers will stop encouraging these two parties from pursuing aggression.

Al Dustour: Following on summit resolutions

KING Hussein's visit to Cairo and his talks with President Mubarak are considered part of the on-going coordination and consultation between the two sister Arab states to enhance the process of their solidarity and brotherly ties. The visit comes at the end of a successful meeting by the joint Jordanian-Egyptian Higher Committee which discussed further means of bolstering Egyptian-Jordanian cooperation in economic and social fields. The King had paid visits to Iraq and Syria before going to Egypt in a determined effort to enhance the march of solidarity and to bolster the resolutions of the Amman summit meeting. It is clear that his talks with the leaders of the three countries aim at unifying the stands of the Arab World in the face of the common challenges vis-a-vis the Middle East and the Gulf issues. We attach great hopes to the King's meetings with other Arab leaders and hope that these contacts will yield very fruitful results, benefitting the whole Arab Nation. We hope that the spirit of the Amman summit will continue to prevail among Arab leaders and that the summit's resolutions will continue to guide their steps for the common good.

Sawt Al Shaab: Hope against all odds

SOVIET-American summit talks opening in Washington Monday are aimed at signing a new treaty for curtailing the use of nuclear weapons that threaten the world. This treaty has been welcomed by the people of the world in general and the Arab masses in particular. The Arabs hope that the treaty will reduce tension between the two world giants and end the arms race on which enormous wealth is being sent every year. The Arabs look to this summit meeting as a new hope for the world and also as a new chance for the superpowers to discuss regional questions that have been endangering world security. The Arabs look to the superpowers for ending the Arab-Israeli conflict so that an end can be put to Israel's occupation of Arab land and its seizure of Arab territory for erecting settlements. Our region continues to witness a violation of human rights in the occupied territories and Israel's detention of innocent civilians and the eviction of Arab people from their homeland. We hope that the two leaders will discuss the Palestine question and the implementation of U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 which call for an end to Israel's occupation of Arab land. We also hope that the superpowers will find a formula for the implementation of Resolution 598 to bring peace to the Gulf region.

Government presents draft budget to Parliament

(Continued from page 1)

Arab countries' were to meet their obligations, the deficit as well as the Kingdom's local and foreign debts could be easily covered.

In his speech Dr. Odeh said that the Nov. 8-11 extraordinary Arab summit held in Amman "heralded a new Arab economic beginning. We are in dire need of such a new beginning, under these special and mysterious international economic conditions."

But he assured the House and Cabinet members that Jordan had succeeded in achieving "positive growth rates in the gross domestic product (GDP), stabilising local prices and maintaining a continuing decline in the balance of trade for the fourth consecutive year."

Dr. Odeh reiterated Jordan's commitments to strengthen its Armed Forces and security apparatus and continue support for the steadfastness of the people in the Israeli-occupied territories. Maintaining a sound and credible financial reputation remained a major objective of Jordan's economic and budget policies, the minister said.

The draft budget stipulated that the government would not issue any budget annexes unless there was an urgent need for extra funds. This issue had proved to be very controversial during the summer when the government issued an annex budget prior to obtaining parliament's approval.

Dr. Odeh said that the government would continue to allocate an annual JD 10 million to support its \$1.4 billion five-year development programme for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip. This is the second year that the government allocated part of the East Bank budget to fund the programme for the occupied territories.

The government's economic policies as outlined in the budget also aim at achieving national development in accordance with the Kingdom's five-year development plans.

Dr. Odeh disclosed a government plan to control public expenditure by increasing the government, however will also subsidise them by JD 58 million in 1988.

The draft budget allocates funds for projects contained in the 1986-1990 National Development Plan. Details of the amounts or projects were not given.

It also includes an allocation of JD 1.2 million "for technological and scientific purposes" and a similar amount for "technical cooperation programme."

Dr. Odeh said that the government would pursue its policy of encouraging mergers of parallel and complementary companies in the private and public sectors.

Dr. Odeh also reiterated the government's commitment to enhancing the role of the private sector. The minister, however, urged the private sector to reorganise its institutions and to take the initiative in "reactivating real investment in the national economy ... in order to increase the country's self-reliance sufficiency in the process of production and marketing."

The draft budget stated that this year's reestimated local sources of income increased by 6.8 per cent from JD 514.6 million in 1986 to JD 549.7 million. This year's recurrent expenditures increased by 5.7 per cent from JD 571.8 million in 1986 to JD 604.5 million. Consequently, local revenues were able to cover 91 per cent of the recurrent expenditure, the minister noted.

The government hopes that local revenues will cover 97.7 per cent of the recurrent expenditures in 1988, Dr. Odeh said.

Following are major excerpts from Dr. Odeh's speech at the Lower House on Monday:

The consensus and accord achieved at the extraordinary Arab summit in Amman last month augurs well for the beginning of a new and strong Arab economic (strategy), much needed in the present difficult international circumstances.

Despite the positive developments in the rate of economic growth and international trade achieved at the beginning of 1987 the major events that influenced world financial markets lately point to a new series of negative developments which will bring about a slowing of economy in the industrialised and developing nations alike.

The difficult economic situation around the world left its negative influence on the economies of the Arab countries being developing states and exposed to major world economic events.

For this reason rates of economic growth have been retreating and financial resources shrinking, resulting deficits in the Arab countries' budgets.

Of course, Jordan is part of the Arab World and therefore it is natural that it is influenced by the events and economic developments of the region. Yet, we have been able to reduce these adverse effects to a minimum and at the same time achieve positive growth in the gross domestic product and to maintain the same level in local prices.

The deficit in the country's balance of trade will witness a decline for the fourth consecutive year as a result of our measures. It should be noted also that we have been able to maintain a stability in the exchange rate of the Jordanian dinar and the country's foreign currency reserves and the balance of payments.

We also were able to keep our foreign debt level within the acceptable international limits. As a result, there has been a revival of the Amman Financial Market and an increase in local deposits in Jordanian banks which naturally allowed for more credit facilities to stimulate the national economy.

The government has issued resolutions and introduced measures designed to create an opportune investment climate with the aim of giving momentum to the development process. The government has not spared any effort in providing means for protecting local products and subsidising them to help the economic sector offset some of the adverse regional and international economic effects on the local economy. The government gives priority to purchasing local products over foreign products and has been introducing measures designed to facilitate exports and has been concluding deals with different Arab and friendly nations to bolster the national economy.

The government is keen on adopting a financial and monetary policy that will achieve the aims and objectives of economic and social development and is seeking to encourage Jordanian expatriates to transfer their capital and their funds to Jordan to be invested in local projects.

The government has been able to honour its domestic and foreign financial commitments and has helped local companies with financial difficulties to overcome their difficult situations.

In 1987, reestimated local revenues amounted to JD 549.7 million against JD 514.6 million in 1986, while the recurrent expenditures amounted to JD 604.5 in 1987 against JD 571.8 million in 1986. Thus local revenues covered nearly 91 per cent of the recurrent expenditures for 1987.

The government has adopted various measures for improving the financial conditions of municipal and village councils by enhancing their capabilities for offering services to the local community. The government has shouldered the loans and the interest on these loans due to banks used for the purchase of land and the construction of schools and other buildings and health centres and roads during 1986 and entrusted various government departments with this task for 1987.

There is no doubt that the numerous government policies

and measures need some time to make themselves felt and the government expects favourable response and cooperation on the part of all sectors in order to achieve the aspired goals.

Jordan's national policy as manifested in the 1988 draft budget law hinges on the following:-

First — Mobilising all available potentials to support and develop the Armed Forces, the Public Security and Civil Defence departments in order to maintain and safeguard the security and stability of the country.

Second — Supporting the steadfastness of the people in the Israeli-occupied Arab territories and to eliminate the yoke of oppression and occupation. Jordan's support of the steadfastness of the people in the occupied territories go hand in hand with its efforts to find a just and durable settlement, on the basis of a complete Israeli withdrawal, and the realisation of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people. The government is also pursuing policies to confront Israel's arbitrary measures in the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The main vehicle of Jordan's policies lies in its five-year development programme for the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Third — Pursuing efforts for maintaining and enhancing Arab solidarity. The government has been intensifying contacts with other Arab countries for the sake of bringing about an Arab economic integration.

Fourth — Maintaining Jordan's credibility worldwide. In this respect, the government has been keen on maintaining dialogues with friendly nations with a view to bolstering its friendly ties with them. As a result of its endeavours, the government has been able to obtain a \$300 million loan from Japan, another evidence of Jordan's seriousness in implementing development projects.

Fifth — Pursuing domestic development through set plans for the purpose of fulfilling national aspirations.

Stimulating economic life in Jordan and maintaining positive rates of economic growth require unanimity of efforts on the part of the public and private sectors. In the public sector the government aims at:

1. Reducing public expenditure of various institutions and raising the skill and efficiency of their personnel;

2. Increasing local revenues by simplifying collection procedures. This is aimed at acquiring sufficient local income to cover capital expenses;

3. Helping public organisations to rely more on their own revenues so that they can cover their current and their capital expenses.

4. Allocating funds for the implementation of projects included in the 1986-1990 five-year plan and allocating JD 10 million to contribute to the implementation of the development programme for the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip;

5. Contributing JD 1.2 million for promoting scientific and technological schemes and another JD 1.2 million for the technical cooperation programme;

6. Pursuing efforts to encourage local production, tourism and exports;

7. Strictly adhering to allocations within the limits of the draft budget for 1988 and refraining from issuing any supplements except whenever it is absolutely necessary.

The government's call for giving the private sector a more emphatic role in the economy and in production emanated from the deep faith in the importance of this sector. All the government decisions and measures taken in this regard were designed to create an opportune investment climate in the Kingdom to give impetus to the private sector to double its efforts in stimulating the national economy and in expanding Jordan's trade links with Arab and friendly nations.

Development projects in Jordan represent a translation of the government's economic and social policies.

Following are some of the achievements in the vital sectors of the country:

Agriculture and irrigation

The importance of this sector calls for dealing with it and with farmers on modern scientific bases. The government gives this sector a distinguished priority, both in the form of implementing major agricultural projects that involves large number of farmers like the Hammad Basin and the Zarqa River Basin project and in executing small projects and the application of agricultural pattern systems and organising production and marketing of crops. This policy requires direct subsidising of prices and providing the necessary tools for production and soft-term loans to farmers.

The government has pursued efforts for increasing cereals like wheat, fodder and meat through leasing land in the southeastern regions to local companies. A total of 180,000 dunums have been leased to these companies for nominal charges with the aim of increasing food production. At the same time, the government is keen on opening markets for the export of its agricultural products.

In the irrigation sector, which is closely linked to the agricultural sector, the government has concluded an agreement with Syria for the construction of Al Wahdah Dam with the aim of storing water for irrigation purposes in the Jordan Valley region. Studies for the implementation of the project are being finalised and work on the scheme is expected to begin in the coming few months.

In addition, the government has extended the length of the King Abdullah (East Ghor) Canal for irrigating an additional 60,000 dunums of land. An allocation of JD 44.7 million has been made for the irrigation projects in the coming year.

Industry and tourism

The government continues to give intermediary and mining industries special care for their paramount importance in providing jobs and due to their investment potential and ability to support the country's trade balance. The government seeks to expand exports of Jordan's products and marketing them in different countries. It has set up a higher national committee on chemical

industries which would be exploiting the mineral wealth of the Dead Sea.

In tourism, a higher committee has been active in stimulating tourist programmes and plans. The committee has worked out a comprehensive strategy to promote the tourism industry and to create incentives for the tourism sector. A total of JD 26.1 million has been allocated in the 1988 draft budget for the tourism industry.

Energy, electricity and water

Water and electricity are being supplied to nearly 96 per cent of the total population of Jordan but the country is still largely dependent on imported sources of energy. However, oil extracted from Hamzeh oil fields covers one per cent of the total local energy consumption. The government is keen on supporting national plans for exploring for oil through self efforts and in cooperation with international companies. At the same time, plans for exploiting alternative sources of energy are going ahead as planned.

In addition, gas finds have been made and a gaspowered station is being set up to produce electricity and so boost the national grid and eventually reduce Jordan's oil imports.

The government is pursuing efforts to carry out water projects in different regions and a total of JD 60.9 million has been allocated for this purpose in the 1988 draft budget.

Education and health

The government has exerted tremendous efforts to improve and update the educational and health systems in the country. It is continuing to expand educational and health services as well as improving their quality.

A total of JD 165.8 million has been allocated in the 1988 draft budget for education and health.

Transport and communications

The government has pursued plans for building road networks and work has actually started on main roads like the Sweimeh-Mazraa road and the Naour-Dead Sea road as well as the ring road around Aqaba.

In addition, there are numerous agricultural roads that are being built and the facilities and capabilities of Aqaba port are being boosted all the time. The government has reduced the services tariff at the port to encourage and boost its services for Arab countries.

In telecommunications, Jordan has been progressively improving its telephone services in all directions and of late it has introduced the fast-mail delivery system to boost postal services. Jordan cooperates with Saudi Arabia and Syria in implementing a regional telecommunications project that will eventually help link the northern and southern parts of Jordan. The government has allocated JD 109.5 million for this project in the 1988 draft budget.

In compliance with directives from His Majesty King Hussein, the government has pursued contacts with Arab countries for the sake of arriving at formulas for bilateral cooperation with them in all fields.

Jordan has set up joint committees with these countries to follow up work on joint projects. Holding companies, set up with Saudi Arabia, Iraq and Egypt, have been entrusted with the task of carrying out industrial, agricultural and services projects and encouraging investments. Jordanian-Syrian joint companies have been expanded and their work boosted to benefit both countries.

The government has concluded numerous agreements to boost economic, technical and trade ties with other Arab states and plans to organise investment seminars in a number of Arab countries following the success of one organised in Kuwait to promote investments in Jordan.

The 1988 draft budget includes the following main items: The budget volume: JD 1075.4 million (with a 6.6 per cent increase over reassessed 1987 budget);

A) Revenues

1- Local revenues: JD 610.9 million;

2- Financial assistance: JD 225 million;

3- Refundable loans JD 26.3 million;

Total revenues JD 862.2 million (first section). (With an increase of 23.5 per cent over the reassessed 1987 budget).

B) Expenses

1- Current expenses: JD 623.8 million;

2- Capital expenses JD 305.3 million;

Total expenses JD 929.1 million (first section). (With an increase of 2.9 per cent over the reassessed 1987 budget).

Volume of the second section

Loans and assistance for development projects: JD 146.3 million. It should be noted that the local revenues as estimated in the draft budget will cover nearly 97.9 per cent from the estimated recurrent expenditure. Allocations for expenditure cover all sectors in the following order:

1. Economic development sectors: JD 256.1 million;

2. Social and cultural development sectors: JD 142.4 million;

3. Public administration and finance: JD 243.2 million;

4. Defence and security: JD 256 million;

5. Servicing local and foreign loans: JD 177.7 million.

Total: JD 1075.4 million.

Deficit

Deficit in the 1988 draft budget is estimated at JD 66.9 million and this will be covered by local and foreign borrowings; control over expenses and improving revenues.

The draft budget included JD 58 million allocation to invest in and promote the work of public institutions.

Jordan has been able to accomplish great achievements in the economic field and boost its credibility worldwide.

Tribute should be paid to Arab countries which had been helping us to consolidate our steadfastness and for this reason Jordan appreciates these Arab countries' assistance, especially Saudi Arabia. Jordan also thanks the Japanese government for its loans to Jordan and the other friendly nations and Arab and international funds which have been providing Jordan with financial assistance.

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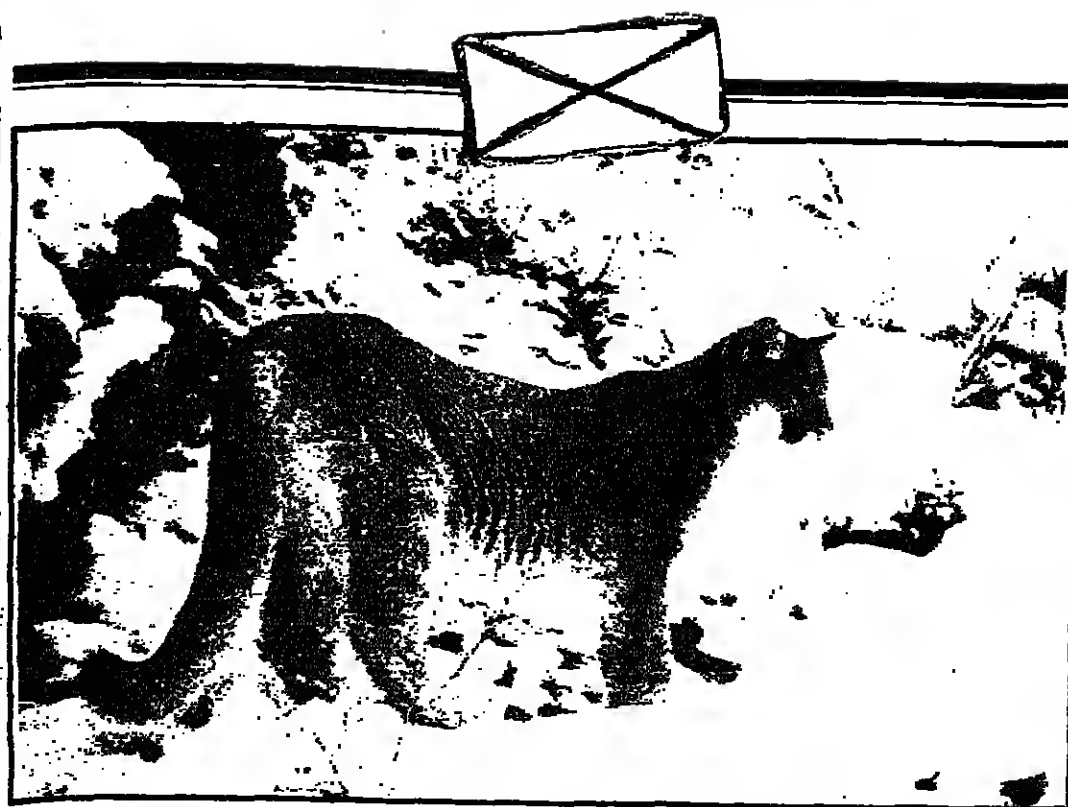
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Mountain lion surveys his domain in an Idaho wilderness area. Research by scientists such as Maurice G. Hornocker of the Wilderness Research Institute have improved prospects for the elusive, solitary cat, whose numbers had dwindled perilously low in the 1960s. Extremely territorial, mountain lions set aside individual hunting territories, often ranging from 50 to 150 square miles in Idaho. Favourite prey are deer and elk.

Mountain lions, unexcelled hunters, don't roam, but stay close to home

By Donald J. Frederick

National Geographic
McCALL, Idaho — Contrary to their popular image as free-roaming killers, most mountain lions are homebodies that hunt on their own turf.

But when they hunt, they're in a class of their own. Although the largest males average only about 160 pounds, they can bring down an elk weighing 800 to 1,000 pounds.

"That's phenomenal," says Maurice G. Hornocker, director of the Wildlife Research Institute in Moscow, Idaho. "It's like an African lioness single-handedly bringing down a cape buffalo. For sheer skill and killing ability, I don't think any cat in the world surpasses the mountain lion."

Curiously, the sinewy, low-slung feline, which takes on a massive bull elk without hesitation, often acts like a domestic cat when encountering a dog. In most wilderness areas, mountain lions are so terrified of barking dogs that they leap into trees to escape them.

A cornered mountain lion — also known as a puma, cougar, or panther — never roars at its tormentors or its prey. An ossified bone in its throat precludes a deep rumbling noise but allows the animal to purr and make other vocal sounds.

In fact, the creature, commonly but wrongly thought of as a prolific purveyor of terrifying screams, usually whistles instead. "I am certain lions 'talk' in the wild by means of these birdlike sounds produced with their vocal cords," says Hornocker. "A warbling note is a greeting, a piercing one is an alarm, and short, intense tones mean 'come here.' The vocalizations are particularly important to females with cubs."

On a recent reconnaissance trip over a wilderness area in central Idaho, Hornocker clutches the cat in the sharply banking light blue as it bounces and pitches above forbidding granite crags.

"The mountain lion's down there," he shouts over the engine noise, pointing to a pine-clad outcrop just beyond the wing tip. A loud "beep-beep-beep" comes through his earphones, indicating that the tracking device on the aircraft has picked up directional signals from a transmitter attached to a collar around the animal's neck.

"We thought she'd be there," says Hornocker. "Mountain lions are very territorial and claim certain areas as their own. I view the primitive area down there as a vast apartment house. Once you know the number of mountain lion tenants, you can determine where they live in the building."

"Every so often I fly over to find out who's at home and how they are behaving in their relationships with each other," Hornocker knows more about mountain lions than almost anyone else in the country. He has been studying the elusive, tawny cats since the mid-1960s, when the animals, long vilified as vicious killers, were on the brink of the endangered-species list. His research has been supported by the National Geographic Society.

As a result of such research, the cats now have a much brighter future. Western states with mountain lions have reclassified the cat from vermin to game animal, which means that hunting them now is closely controlled.

Hornocker and his associates are reluctant to estimate the number of mountain lions in the United States, except to say that there are thousands of them. It's extremely difficult to take an accurate census of the reclusive creatures, they say.

The lions live chiefly in the Western mountains, although they've been reported in other places, including the Ozarks and Appalachians. An endangered subspecies is struggling to survive in Florida.

Decades ago, the lions were the most numerous large cat in North America. Before over-

hunting and lost habitat pushed them close to extinction, they could be found from upper British Columbia to the tip of South America.

Today, human attitudes toward them have mellowed. "There are some hot spots where lions kill domestic stock, but most people today value an animal that a decade ago was almost universally hated throughout the West," says Hornocker.

Pioneering the use of radio telemetry to keep track of the 100 or so animals he has captured and then released, Hornocker has come up with new information about the cats that dispels old myths and enhances their chances of continued success.

He has learned, for instance, that adult cats mark their territories by scraping leaves, twigs, or pine needles into small mounds and urinating on them. Young animals strike out on their own at about 2 years of age to seek a private hunting range.

In Idaho, rigid boundaries maintained by male lions range from 50 to 150 square miles, depending on type of terrain and abundance of prey such as deer and elk. Female territories are smaller — 25 to 50 square miles — and sometimes overlap with those of neighbouring males.

Hornocker feels that the mountain lion has been unfairly blamed for declines in elk and deer populations. "In my area the big cats often zeroed in on old and less physically fit animals, and there was no significant change in numbers of healthy elk and deer," he says.

He hopes soon to bear the familiar lion calls in Wyoming's Yellowstone National Park. The animals were gunned from its boundaries many years ago, when their indiscriminate killing was still condoned. But there's evidence that they have returned.

In a new study, he hopes to learn how many have returned and what ecological role they now play in the oldest national park.

Ancient Tunisian mosaics debut in U.S.

USIA

NEW YORK — The huge blue and yellow banner fluttering over the majestic entrance to the American Museum of Natural History announces the premiere of the largest collection of Tunisian objects ever shown in the United States.

The exhibition — entitled "Carthage: A Mosaic of Ancient Tunisia" — will be on display here from December 2, 1987, to May 1, 1988. It focuses on the city and its successive cultures through 167 pieces that include enormous brightly coloured mosaics, outstanding Roman bronzes and a collection of rare Punic jewellery.

Many of the items are being seen by the public for the first time. The exhibit presents the most comprehensive view of ancient Tunisian life and culture ever exhibited in the United States. It depicts the region as a centre of culture, history and art.

The Tunisian treasures are displayed in Gallery 3 of the American Museum, one of the largest and most popular museums in the United States. The gallery itself has been specially redesigned.

Visitors are transported to ancient Tunisia through huge photomurals of the sites, maps, descriptions of life at the time as well as by the artifacts themselves.

The exhibition is divided into five main sections: Prehistory and the Berbers; Punic Carthage; Carthage Reborn: The Coming of Rome; Romanisation, and Carthage's Twilight. It illustrates the civilisation of the Carthaginians from 800 B.C. to the beginning of the Islamic period in the seventh century A.D.

Among the items are 17 of the world's most outstanding pictorial mosaics that provide a visual

record of life in the region from the first to the fourth centuries A.D. Many of the mosaics, although exhibited in Tunisia, have never travelled outside the country nor have pictures of them appeared widely.

After its New York viewing, the exhibit will travel to the Houston Museum of Natural Science, New Orleans Museum of Art, Albuquerque Museum, and the Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County, where it is scheduled to close in December 1989.

David Soren, a University of Arizona professor and specialist in Roman art and archaeology, is the guest curator of the exhibition. He has excavated extensively in Tunisia and unearthed some of the artifacts in the exhibition. Soren said in an interview that the museum's director, Thomas Nicholson, initiated the exhibit.

Nicholson and Soren were touring Tunisia about seven years ago, Soren said, and the museum director "was impressed by the Bardo Museum and the great beauty of the mosaics and he turned to me and said: 'David do something.' He thought the people of New York would just love to see these art treasures."

In an introduction to the exhibit, Nicholson wrote that "the story of ancient Carthage and her environs is vast and complex — only vaguely perceived by most of us and understood by only a few. The goal of this exhibit has been to present an accurate panorama of Carthage's varied and splendid artistic achievements against a backdrop of the events of the times and the struggles that surged across this part of the African landscape."

"Through 'Carthage: A Mosaic of Ancient Tunisia,' the public may gain an understanding of and empathy with an ancient city and

its resilient, creative people of long ago. It is presented as a gift of our two countries to the cultural patrimony of the world," Nicholson wrote.

Soren acknowledged that "most people don't know very much about Tunisia. They've heard about Hannibal and may be (Queen) Dido but are vague about the Punic Wars."

Yet, he said, "we share with Tunisia the roots of Western civilisation. I don't think people realise that Carthage was one of the greatest cities of Western civilisation of its time. That was one of the big reasons for doing this show."

"As we approach the 21st Century, we are starting to see power shifts around the world, and the nations of Islam are much more in our consciousness than they ever were before," Soren said.

"It is certainly time that we as a nation inform ourselves what is going on in these communities. It is also important to realise that if a nation is Islamic it doesn't mean everything is Islamic."

Soren assembled the exhibit with the help of Tunisian archaeologists — especially Aicha Ben Abed Ben Khader, conservator and director of the Musée de Bardo, and Mohamed Fantar, director of the Tunisian National Institute of Archaeology and Art. Their work took four years.

"We put an exhibition together to show things from the Tunisian point of view. Nothing like this had been done in the United States with their country," Soren said.

Their work was not only an intellectual challenge, but nerve-racking as well. "We're not just dealing with mosaics, but national treasures," he said. The mosaics had to be in excellent condition to travel. They had to be cut into sections, to be res-

tored. "Each one is stacked in a special compartment and has to be hoisted into position," Soren said. They are difficult to mount and stabilise, he added. "There are problems in positioning because if the mosaics are set over a weak point, they could go through the floor." Then the mosaics must be looked after once they're in place. Tunisian specialists have accompanied the exhibit and will remain to care for the treasures.

Museum visitors agree that the effort was worth it, especially when they turn a corner on the winding path of the exhibit and see the recently discovered mosaic from Rouga — the spectacular "Orpheus Charming the Animals" — or the "Head of Medusa" on loan from the Sfax Museum.

Soren and the group had three criteria in picking the objects. The pieces "had to be interesting not just to specialists, but have some kind of human interest," he said. Second, they had to fit into the exhibit's overall theme — the interrelationship of the Berber, Punic and Roman people and what their lives were like. And third, the pieces had to tell some kind of story.

"We didn't want people to walk through the exhibit and feel they were just looking at a bunch of objects," Soren said.

Ben Abed said that "other small exhibitions have been done in the United States, but it is the first time we are sending such a big exhibition."

Several of the mosaics never left their site before, let alone Tunisia, he said. "This is the first time the mosaic from el Jem left the site. It will go back to a museum, however, we cannot leave it on the site because it is too difficult to take care of."

Caring for such treasures is

difficult and costly. Ben Abed said. "We are doing what we can (in Tunisia). They need a lot of sophisticated care so we are trying to collaborate with other museums," he said. "The problem is that people don't understand that Tunisia is so rich (archaeologically); we have so many objects, so many sites, so many still to be discovered, that we cannot afford to put all the mosaics on new supports to preserve them for humanity." Ben Abed hopes that "Carthage: A Mosaic of Ancient Tunisia" will make more people aware of Tunisia's treasures and possibly bring more financial and technical support.

The American Museum has also planned special events around the exhibition, including a symposium, a tour, and a special preview. A 238-page book describing the items in the exhibit and placing them in the context of the historical period, edited by Soren and Ben Abed, has also been published by the museum.

Ben Abed presented a lecture on the Bardo Museum's mosaics on November 16 and on December 5 Soren moderated an education symposium's panel discussion on "Carthage and the Mediterranean World." The museum's gift shop is carrying reproductions from the Bardo Museum, including a Punic oil lamp, a bas relief plaque of the dancing Maenads, and Roman glass vases.

"Carthage: A Mosaic of Ancient Tunisia" was produced by the American Museum in cooperation with the Tunisian National Institute of Archaeology and Art, the Musée de Bardo de Tunis, and the Tunisian Museums of Sfax and Sousse. The American Museum also received a grant from the (U.S.) National Endowment for the Humanities.

Small consumer interest group out to protect one billion buyers

By Jim Abrams
The Associated Press

BEIJING — A group of 15 people in a small Beijing office is out to protect the interests of 1 billion Chinese consumers beset by counterfeit, inferior goods and unscrupulous salesmen.

The China Consumer Association, not quite three years old, lacks the testing laboratories, batteries of lawyers and spending power of consumer interest groups in the West.

It does, however, have the crucial backing of the Communist government, which has given top priority to economic development and bettering living standards in one of the world's poorer countries.

"We have a short history, but

we have great influence on society," said administrative director Liu Yuanqing in an interview.

She said the association has handled 20,000 letters from consumers distraught over bad quality, high prices, poor service and false advertising. Many problems were solved, she said, by confronting the manufacturer and demanding redress of grievances.

Ms. Liu recalled how they had worked with police to track down a man who bilked 40 people out of 60,000 yuan (\$16,200) by falsely promising them Japanese tape recorders, or how they found a painting bought by a Chinese-American but misplaced by the transport company during shipping.

About 70 per cent of complaints concern electrical ap-

pliances, she said, an indication of the strain between low technological levels and high demand for televisions, refrigerators and washing machines.

One major accomplishment of the association has been to prod numerous appliance factories to guarantee that defective products will be fixed, exchanged or taken back, Ms. Liu said.

The association is funded by the state administration for industry and commerce, and is governed by a council of 134 government officials and experts in law, engineering and the mass media.

It is trying to be more than just a complaint box for consumer woes, Ms. Liu said. In September it co-sponsored an exhibition of counterfeit products seen by 100,000 in Beijing. In November

it will participate in a light industry ministry "exhibition of shame" in which shoddy goods will be exposed to the public.

The association also is helping draft a national consumer protection law, carries out surveys to assess consumer reactions to products and strives to "guide the consumption of the masses" through propaganda campaigns in the official media.

"We promote good quality products and review bad ones and ask consumers not to buy them," Ms. Liu said.

There's plenty to review in a country where only 30 per cent of major manufactured goods meet international standards. The problem of poor quality is even more acute in the 500,000 light industry factories, many operat-

ing with little supervision, poor equipment and few trained technicians.

The reception on Chinese TV has been compared to "waves of the Danube," while new models of the well-known snow flame refrigerator have to be returned to the factory for repairs 20 times as frequently as foreign models.

People will pay several months' income, sometimes on the black market, to obtain scarce foreign-made or top-quality Chinese bicycles, while about 8 million second-rate bicycles have already piled up in warehouses this year.

The nation now has a stockpile of 35 million wristwatches, many of poor quality that can't be sold but continue to be produced in China's desperate battle to keep everyone working.

Transistor radios and gold crowd out Oman's silversmiths

By Stephen Jukes
Reuters

MUTTRAH, Oman — Silver Omani daggers fit for a king lie hidden from view behind garish shells of pirated Michael Jackson cassettes and inflatable toy Jumbos.

Splashes of red and yellow polyester dresses flick out from beneath black veils as Omani women hurry through the winding alleys, stopping only to gaze at window displays dripping with gold jewellery.

The art of the silversmith is still prized in the Sultanate of Oman, but it is becoming rarer as fashion and taste catch up with the earlier flow of petrodollar wealth and in favour of gold.

Omani silver necklaces and carved daggers — known as khanjars and a symbol of masculinity — now take second place to scores of gold shops in the bustling market or souk.

The Muttrah Souk, one of the oldest and liveliest in the Gulf oil state of Oman, is a mishmash of old and new, a rabbit warren of alleys which bursts into life every day as soon as the sun sets over the bay's palm-lined waterfront.

Ali Saleh's fly-blown back is a refuge from stalls selling transistor radios and cheap toys. To his left, a dozen ancient hand-made barrels are stacked up against the wall, the barrels finely

ornamented with silver chasing. He rummages through a tray to produce a Marie Theresa "thaler," an Austrian silver coin first minted in 1751 which was still legal tender in Oman until 1970 when a currency reform was introduced.

The high silver content of the coins meant they were often melted down by silversmiths to make jewellery. They were also used to set the value of a bridal gift or *mahr* bestowed by Omani men on their young wives.

But today the thalers have become little more than curiosities and, after due haggling, Ali is happy to part with one for three Omani rials — about \$8.

A maze of alleyways further into the souk, in the shadow of a towering Portuguese fort guarding the Gulf of Oman coastline, Saleh Ali Mobammad has one of the few silversmith workshops still actively making jewellery in Muttrah.

His father and grandfather before him made the ceremonial khanjars, which the Omani man wore with pride at his waist on formal occasions and feast days. The handle is usually made of rhinoceros horn and silver, the scabbard is decorated with seven silver rings through which fine strands of silver thread are woven.

It is 10 to 15 days' intricate work for Saleh or one of his young apprentices that will cost a

customer as much as 1,500 rials or nearly \$4,000.

"These are the best quality you can buy," he says clutching five khanjars or \$20,000-worth in his hand. "They aren't so good in Nizwa."

Nizwa, one of Oman's ancient capitals in the interior, is a rival silver centre, with its own distinctive jewellery designs that some silversmiths trace back to Indian folklore and 10th century China.

In contrast to gold, which is imported into Oman, silver is brought from veins near the country's northern copper mine in the Hajar mountains.

Because of the delicacy of Omani silverwork, khanjars and necklaces are often presented to visiting heads of state by Sultan Qaboos Bin Said who took over the country from his father in a 1970 coup and has tried to strike a balance between tradition and progress.

But the black-veiled women who flock to the souk have eyes only for gold in what appears to be one of the most recession proof businesses in the Gulf.

A huge army of expatriate Indians in one glittering shop weigh individual pieces on scales and work out the price on calculators. Omani wives phone their husbands for advice and a one-year-old child smiles contentedly as she is presented with golden earrings.

Japanese girls use band-aid charm to catch the boys

By Yumi Kuramitsu
Reuters

TOKYO — If you see a teenage girl in Japan with a band-aid on her arm, don't assume she cut herself. She may just have a broken heart.

According to a fad sweeping the ranks of Japanese schoolgirls, supernatural powers can be enlisted to make love bloom through the use of ordinary sticking plasters.

It works like this: Write the name of the boy you like on the inside of your left arm and cover it with a plaster for three days.

Within a week, your wish will be granted and you will begin a relationship with the boy "deeper than friendship," whisper breathless believers.

Fifteen-year-old high-school girl Kazuo Kishibiki is a believer. "I had my wish come true thanks to it," she said. "The boy I like now pays attention to me."

A classmate said she had a similar success earlier this year.

"The boy whom I wanted to be my good friend gave me a present in return for my Valentine's day gift, thanks to my wearing a band-aid for three days," she said.

Kishibiki's explanation of how it happened is simple. "If you try hard, God will help you and your dreams will come true," she said.

The fad has gained momentum since a popular teenage girls' magazine, My Birthday, carried a report on the sticking plaster love to romance in October.

Fumio Sakai, the magazine's editor, said the band-aid fad had been popular before among Japanese girls, maybe four or five years ago.

"We got many letters from our

readers telling us that it was again becoming popular in their schools to wear a band-aid on the left arm for three days for good luck," Sakai said. "So we decided to make it one of the regularly featured items in our magazine."

The magazine now gets telephone calls and postcards every day from readers enquiring about sticking plaster hoodoo.

For My Birthday, too, the fashion has brought good luck — sales have increased dramatically since it began, Sakai said.

Another member of My Birthday's staff, Kazuo Arai, said they had been surprised by the sudden upsurge in the fad, but added:

"It is just the latest in a series of similar strange practices among teenage girls."

According to another superstition popular among Japanese girls, you can snare a boy by writing his name on a pencil eraser — as long as no one else touches it before it has worn away.

For general good luck in romance and other areas of life, some girls draw a small white star on the nail of their left little finger.

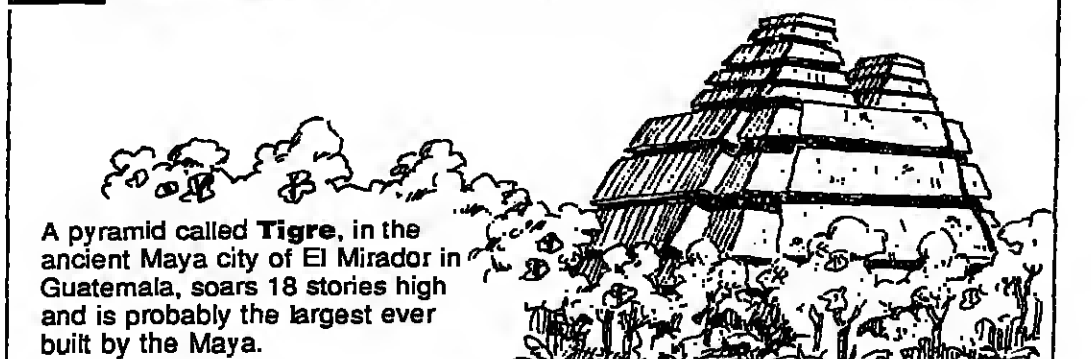
Most of the fads are strictly for girls. But there are signs that the sticking plaster charm works for boys as well.

"My boyfriend did it. It helped and made us good friends," said junior high-school student Yuko Suzuki.

"I think it is one of the most effective spells going," she said. But the reaction to the band-aid fad among young teenage boys is generally cool.

"Girls are getting too aggressive these days," grumbled one boy. "We don't care too much for it."

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC NEWS GRAPHIC



A pyramid called Tigré, in the ancient Maya city of El Mirador in Guatemala, soars 18 stories high and is probably the largest ever built by the Maya.



Because of an 18th-century Chinese emperor's passion for jade, 1,000 workmen spent three years hauling a 6-ton nephrite boulder, and artisans spent another seven years carving it into an intricate design.



The Great Law of Peace, the oral constitution of the Six Nations Iroquois Confederacy, preceded the U.S. Constitution by centuries and embodies many ideals similar to those found in the 200-year-old document.

An August 1986 eruption of carbon monoxide gas from Lake Nyos in Cameroon, which snuffed out 1,700 lives, and a similar incident at nearby Lake Monoun in August 1984, which killed 37, are the only recorded events in which gas released from lakes has caused human deaths.

© National Geographic Society Drawings by Stokes Walesby

Knicks trail Trail Blazers

PORTLAND, Oregon (AP) — Clyde Drexler had 27 points and Steve Johnson scored eight of his 22 in the last 3½ minutes of the first half, lifting Portland to its ninth straight National Basketball Association (NBA) victory, 117-99, over the New York Knicks Sunday night.

The Knicks led 52-44 late in the first half when Johnson started a 13-2 streak with three straight baskets. The spurt gave the Trail Blazers a 57-54 halftime lead, and they never trailed in the second half.

Jerome Kersey had 23 points for Portland as he continued to play well in relief of high-scoring forward Kiki Vandeweghe, who has missed eight of the nine victories in the winning streak because of a sore back.

The winning streak equals the longest in club history. Portland, which has beaten the Knicks in each of their last eight meetings, won nine straight in 1979-80 and in 1980-81.

Suns edge Clippers

In Los Angeles, Larry Nance scored 26 points and James Edwards added 17 Sunday night as the Phoenix Suns held off the Los Angeles Clippers 97-96 for their first NBA road victory of the season.

Phoenix appeared to have the game in hand, leading 97-91 with 1:33 left. Los Angeles rallied to within one point and had a couple of chances to take the lead, only to fall short.

The Clippers' Mike Woodson

broke out of a 6-for-38 shooting drought over the previous two games to score 30 points. Michael Cage, who pulled down 19 rebounds for Los Angeles, made only three of 11 free throws, missing three in the last four minutes of the game.

Trailing 97-91 with 1:33 left in the game, the Clippers cut the deficit to 97-95 when Cage hit a jumper, then stole the ball from Alvan Adams under the Phoenix basket to set up a layup by Benoit Benjamin with 47 seconds left.

Cage then stripped Jeff Hornacek of the ball, was fouled at the end by Nance with 25 seconds left and went to the line with a chance to tie the score. But he made only one of the two free throws to leave Clippers a point down.

Only the weather stops Swiss march on the Alps

VAL D'ISERE, France (AP) — The weather was the only thing blocking the Swiss skiers from making a French sweep after an Italian shutout.

The Swiss skiing team, which had been shut out the season's first weekend in Italy, rebounded with Maria Walliser and Chantal Bournissen — the veteran and the youngster — scoring back-to-back victories Friday and Saturday.

That ended the Swiss losing streak, which had risen to five this season. Last year, the Swiss took 40 of 65 World Cup races and eight of 10 world champion races.

On Sunday, with Swiss Daniel Mahrer in first and Peter Mueller

in third place after 17 racers had started in the first men's downhill of the season, fog and snow forced a one-day postponement of the race.

Neither of the World Cup overall leaders participated in any of the downhill races over the weekend, each having built up big leads prior to that.

Alberto Tomba of Italy had 50 points in the men's standings while Mateja Svet of Yugoslavia led the women with 40 points.

On Sunday, the men's race was hampered from the start. Canada's Rob Boyd, who had won two of the training runs, tried racing Sunday but wound up last at that point. Two skiers later, the jury stopped the competition.



"THE FLYING MASTER": At 50, "captain" Uwe Seeler of West Germany is still as popular and fit as ever (Photo by INP)

Man takes up skydiving despite paralysis

ARTHUR, Ontario (AP) — "Once you've broken your neck, you can't get hurt any worse unless you die," said daredevil quadriplegic Troy Brown just before strapping on a parachute and bailing out of an airplane near this southern Ontario farming community.

Brown, paralysed from chest to toe, looked up from his wheelchair with a faint but defiant smile.

The slim 21-year-old, who also rides horses and sails, believes he's the only quadriplegic in Canada who skydives and said he hopes the achievement will show others that physical disabilities don't have to end an active life.

"After my injury, I saw a lot of quadriplegics who live life stuck in an apartment and who don't go out or do too much."

"That scared me, and I thought life wouldn't be worth living like that."

"Then I decided to jump. You might be limited, but you can't let the injury stop you."

After spending most of his time in a wheelchair, he said the experience of plunging through the air was a thrilling new form of freedom.

Brown lost his physical freedom one night in June, 1986, when he was riding in the back of a pickup truck on his way to a party near Owen Sound. When the truck hit a three, Brown broke his neck.

Unwilling to surrender an active life, he took up horseback riding and sailing — activities that were actually therapeutic and taught him new balance.

While he was undergoing physiotherapy, he met Ken Dumont, a skydiving instructor hurt in a jump who wound up in the same hospital.

Dumont told Brown about a fairly new type of parachuting that would, in theory, allow a quadriplegic to jump in tandem with an experienced skydiver. The trouble was, Dumont said, no one had ever tried it.

Brown's doctors advised against the jump, but he wouldn't listen. "I've always liked high-risk activities," said Brown. "I'd been a year and a half in hospitals and was getting institutionalised. I needed an escape."

Joe Stanley, the kitchener skydiver who volunteered to guide Brown down in the parachute, was initially concerned Brown might injure himself.

"We were all worried that he might get hurt in the jump, but he wasn't worried," said Stanley.

Dutch champs sound warning across Europe

UNDATED — Dutch champions PSV Eindhoven sounded a warning across Europe after humiliating DS'79 7-0 on Sunday to maintain their 100 per cent record in the league after 15 matches.

PSV, bidding for their third successive league title, remain six points clear of Ajax Amsterdam having scored 64 goals with only 12 against.

They are playing the brand of soccer which could well earn them European Cup success this season.

Their talented and experienced midfield Dynamo Soeren Lerby

has no doubts about PSV's potential. The Danish international, who has played for both Bayern Munich and Ajax, teams of high European pedigree, said last week: "PSV are the best club side I have ever played for."

The Dutch team are already through to the quarterfinals of the European Cup.

Wim Kieft, PSV's recent signing from Torino, led the goal spree with four and Ronald Koeman, the league's leading marksman, claimed his 13th of the season.

Sabatini crushes Cueto in Argentine Open final

BUENOS AIRES (R) — Argentine tennis star Gabriela Sabatini on Sunday dropped only three games in scoring a comfortable victory over West Germany's Isabel Cueto in the final of the \$50,000 Argentine Open women's championship.

Sabatini, ranked sixth in the world and top seed at the tournament, beat number two seed Cueto 6-0, 6-3 in little more than an hour before 3,000 fans at the clay-court Buenos Aires Lawn Tennis Club. She also won the tournament in 1984 and 1986.

Cueto, 27 places below Sabatini

in the world ranking, looked nervous and made numerous unforced errors in the opening set.

But she fought back to take the lead early in the second set as she found more accuracy with her two-handed backhand.

Sabatini, 17, runner-up in the recent end-of-season women's championship in New York, forced her way back into the game on her service to go 3-3.

She wrapped up the match for her fifth professional title after recovering from break point in the 14th game.

Saints follow 49ers, Redskins into NBA playoffs

NEW YORK (AP) — The San Francisco 49ers and Washington Redskins, who make a habit of being in the playoffs, were joined there Sunday by the New Orleans Saints.

The Saints' NFL's perennial losers, the team that went 20 years without a winning record?

New Orleans assured itself of at least a wild-card berth Sunday with a 44-34 victory over Tampa Bay. They are one game behind the 49ers, 23-12 winners at Green Bay, in the NFC West.

Washington got into the playoffs for the fifth time in six years with a 34-17 decision at St. Louis. Chicago clinched the NFC Central with a 30-24 victory over Minnesota.

All three AFC divisions are muddled, with the Central in a three-day tie among Cleveland, Pittsburgh and Houston. Indianapolis helped create that situation with a 9-7 victory over the Browns, giving the Colts the lead in the East.

Denver's 31-20 decision over New England lifted the Broncos past San Diego, a 33-18 loser at Houston, and Seattle, which was beaten 13-9 in Pittsburgh.

Other results Sunday were: Atlanta 21, Dallas 10; Cincinnati 30, Kansas City 27 in overtime; the Los Angeles Rams 37, De-

troit 16; and the New York Giants 23, Philadelphia 20 in overtime.

Monday night, the New York Jets, who could tie Indianapolis for the East lead with a win, are at Miami.

Saints 44, Buccaneers 34
Bobby Hebert had the best day of his three-year NFL career, while Vinny Testaverde, the top pick in this year's draft, got off to a horrible start. Hebert threw for two touchdowns after Testaverde's fumbles in the first period and the Saints never were caught.

49ers 23, Packers 12
Joe Montana, the league's top passer, hit his first 17 passes, giving him an NFL record 22 straight completions, and also passed for two touchdowns and ran for another.

Redskins 34, Cardinals 17
Jay Schroeder completed eight of nine passes for 126 yards in the third quarter as the Redskins, 9-3, produced three touchdowns in a span of 5:48. Schroeder ran for one of the touchdowns.

Bears 30, Vikings 24
Mike Tomczak replaced injured Jim McMahon and threw a 38-yard touchdown pass to Dennis Gentry with 40 seconds remaining. Leading 24-23, Minne-

sota was stopped four times inside the 2-yard line.

Colts 9, Browns 7
Colts placekicker Dean Bascic did all of the scoring for Indianapolis, which began week 12 tied with the Jets and Bills atop the AFC East. The Browns let their hold on first place slip with their second straight loss.

Oilers 33, Chargers 18
Houston recovered four fumbles, with Robert Lyles returning one 55 yards for a touchdown. Houston overcame a shoulder injury to Warren Moon and injuries to leading rusher Mike Rozier, who hurt his shoulder, ankle and knee in the game.

Steelers 13, Seahawks 9
Pittsburgh forced a pair of second-half turnovers in its territory and got 106 yards rushing from Frank Pollard, who scored the deciding touchdown on an 11-yard fourth-quarter run.

Broncos 31, Patriots 20
John Elway threw two second-half touchdown passes and cornerback Mark Haynes scored a fourth-quarter TD on an interception. Denver's fourth consecutive victory came after the Broncos fell behind 17-3 at halftime.

Giants 23, Eagles 20, OT
Raul Allegre, who earlier missed two field-goal attempts, kicked a 28-yarder to win it. In the fourth quarter, Allegre had a 31-yard field goal attempt hit the upright. His 50-yard attempt in overtime was blocked.

Raiders 34, Bills 21

Marc Wilson completed 21 of 32 passes for 337 yards and three touchdowns as the Raiders knocked the Bills, 6-6, out of a first-place tie in the AFC east.

Falcons 21, Cowboys 10
Atlanta broke a six-game losing streak — the Falcons hadn't won since the players' strike — as Robert Moore returned a fumble for a touchdown and set up another score with a second recovery.

Bengals 30, Chiefs 27, OT
Cincinnati won its first home game in seven tries as Jim Breech's 32-yard field goal, his third of the game.

Rams 37, Lions 16
Jim Everett passed for a career-high 324 yards and two touchdowns and Charles White had his sixth 100-yard rushing game this season with 102 yards and two more scores as the Rams won their fourth straight game.

Giants 23, Eagles 20, OT
Raul Allegre, who earlier missed two field-goal attempts, kicked a 28-yarder to win it. In the fourth quarter, Allegre had a 31-yard field goal attempt hit the upright. His 50-yard attempt in overtime was blocked.

Lendl urged not to relinquish Czech citizenship

NEW YORK (R) — A Czechoslovak tennis official has asked Ivan Lendl to drop his bid for U.S. citizenship, fearing that the top-ranked player's defection would seriously harm tennis in the Eastern Bloc country.

"Should he defect, it would cast a black shadow over tennis in Czechoslovakia," stated Czechoslovak Davis Cup Captain Jan Kodess in a release at the \$500,000 Masters tournament.

"His decision to live in the USA is taken very hard in our country," Kodess stated.

According to a source close to

Kodess, Lendl's departure might result in a curtailment of tennis programmes in Czechoslovakia. The source, who asked not to be named, said Lendl's defection would cause embarrassment to the federation.

Czechoslovakia has already lost their two top women players. Martina Navratilova is now an American citizen, and Hana Mandlikova is seeking citizenship in her Australian husband's country.

Lendl said his position is unchanged, adding that he officially

has five years to wait before granted U.S. citizenship.

But the 26-year-old player said he is petitioning for U.S. citizenship quicker because of his hopes to play Davis Cup competition for the United States.

"I would still like it (being a member of the U.S. Davis Cup team) if I'm eligible," said Lendl on Sunday after he advanced to the Masters final with a 6-2, 6-4 win over American Brad Gilbert.

Kodess encouraged good relations between Lendl and the Czechoslovak Tennis Federation.

"He is still welcome to play Davis Cup for Czechoslovakia any time he feels able," Kodess stated.

"But I still believe that if the Czech authorities would allow him to retain Czech citizenship while living permanently abroad," added Kodess, "Ivan might accept to play Davis Cup for us again."

Lendl said that he has not discussed playing Davis Cup for Czechoslovakia with Kodess.

"It's not true," Lendl said. "We have talked, but not about Davis Cup."

British image further aggravated by rugby brawl

LONDON (R) — A brawl in a Rugby League match involving all 26 players and some officials of the two clubs has further sullied the image of British sport.

The brawl, a running battle that lasted four minutes, took place on Sunday during the Second Division game between home team York and Dewsbury.

It was the latest in a series of incidents that have discredited sport in Britain, once proud of its reputation for setting high standards of sportsmanship.

Other incidents have included a boxer who punched a referee in a major London promotion last Wednesday, the reluctance of England cricketer Chris Broad to accept his dismissal when given out in a test match in Pakistan and a surge in sending off in soccer matches.

The number of players dismissed in English League and Football Association Cup matches reached 114 at the weekend, well on course for the record 229 in the 1982-83 season.

If the soccer authorities needed reminding of the behaviour on the field sets a poor example for spectators, the evidence was there on Saturday.

A referee needed stitches in a head wound after being struck by a missile thrown from the crowd and another was escorted from the field after sending off West Ham's Mark Ward in the First Division game against Southampton.

Sunday's Rugby League brawl provided further evidence of a rising state of lawlessness. To make matters worse, club officials joined in, among them York Director Albert Bond who had to be ordered from the field by referee Alan Burke and then appeared to throw a punch at one of the touch judges.

After the dust had settled on the second-half fracas, Burke sent off four players. A fifth was ordered off 10 minutes later but was so reluctant to leave, it had to be pointed out to Burke he was still on the field two minutes later.

Burke defended himself against criticism that he had not done enough to stop the fighting. "I could have separated two fighting players but not so many. I let them get on with it and took note of who was to blame."

SPORTS IN BRIEF

Venezuelan trots away with trophy

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Rayo Laser of Venezuela sprinted ahead in the last 425 metres Sunday, inching ahead of co-national Gallardete to win the 20th Caribbean Horse Racing Classic. The race was so tight that the judges had to examine the photograph of the arrival before determining the winner. Rayo Laser beat 13 other horses from seven countries with a time of 1:52.3 in the 1,800 metres race, taking the prize of \$153,000. The horse, owned by Gustavo Mirabal and Carlos Mancera, was ridden by Agustín Beza. Laser Ray advanced from fifth place to take the lead in the last 425 metres of the race and beat Gallardete by a nose. "It was a surprising victory for Venezuela," said Classic press director Tomas Muniz. The start of the race was delayed 20 minutes when the Ecuadorian horse Vainglorious escaped from the starting gate three times.

Official to investigate disappearance of players

GEORGETOWN, Guyana (AP) — A former cabinet minister has been appointed to investigate the disappearance of 15 members of Guyana's national soccer team in Los Angeles, officials said Sunday. The players disappeared after they lost to Mexico 9-0 in an Olympic qualifying play-off Friday. The rest of the national soccer team was scheduled to return to Guyana Sunday night from Miami. The team had been slated to continue to Mexico after Los Angeles match, but was ordered to return home immediately. Prime Minister Hamilton Green appointed former home affairs minister Stanley Moore to investigate the disappearance, officials said. Three other Guyanese athletes disappeared earlier this year in Miami on their way home from the Bahamas.

Monaco held to goalless draw

PARIS (R) — Monaco's England international striker Mark Hateley was well shackled by the Montpellier defence as the French First Division leaders were held to a goalless draw at home on Sunday. Brazilian international Julio Cesar and Yugoslav Nenad Stojkovic combined to keep Hateley from adding to his league tally of 10 goals, but the point Monaco gained stretched their lead over second-placed Bordeaux, 5-2 winners over Lens on Saturday, to four points. Monaco's game should have been played on Saturday but a deluge on the Cote d'Azur resulted in it being postponed for 24 hours. In another match put back a day because of the rain, Cannes beat bottom-placed Le Havre 3-0.

Japan will stick to 12-metre challenger

TOKYO (R) — Japan has no plans to build 90-foot boats and will concentrate on a 12-metre challenger for the 1991 America's Cup, the Nippon challenge America's Cup 1991 committee said on Monday. A spokesman said the committee had decided not to build giant yachts despite a New York court's decision forcing the San Diego yacht club to defend the America's Cup next year in 90-foot (27.30 metre) waterline boats. Last week San Diego said it would accept a challenge only from New Zealand. The spokesman for the Japanese committee said they had also decided not to send a delegation to New York this week to protest against San Diego's decision. Australian millionaire Alan Bond had called on Japan, New Zealand, France and Britain to attend a meeting on Thursday. The spokesman said any change in the Japanese attitude would have to wait until the result of the 90-foot challenge, expected next summer.

Crafter leads her team to victory

LARGO, Florida (AP) — Jane Crafter chipped in two 40-foot-plus birdies and dropped two 30-foot birdie putts Sunday to lead her team to victory in the \$650,000 J.C. Penney mixed team golf classic at Bardmoor Country Club. Crafter, a 31-year-old Australian, teamed with Steve Jones of the United States, a 28-year-old PGA tour player, to post a final round 68 and a 72-hole total of 20-under-par 268. Each earned \$65,000. The winning team finished two strokes ahead of third-round leaders Mark McCumber and Debbie Massey, who struggled to a final round 71 to finish at 270 and earn \$38,000 each.

Former boxing champ preparing comeback

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Former International Boxing Federation (IBF) junior-lightweight champion Barry Michael of Australia is set to make a comeback to the ring less than five months after announcing his retirement. Michael fought a four-round exhibition match with compatriot John Sirisotis in Alice Springs over the weekend and announced he planned a serious return to the sport. The British-born Michael after losing his IBF title to Rocky Lockridge of the United States at Windsor, England, earlier this year. Michael said Monday that he hoped to fight a world-ranked American lightweight in the town of Surfers Paradise in February next year.

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ANNOUNCEMENT

The Austrian embassy announces that its visa section has been transferred to the Amra Hotel, Second Floor, Room No. 217, as of Dec. 8, 1987.

Y.W.C.A. CHOIR CONCERT

Y.W.C.A. - Amman presents the Annual Concert of the Y.W.C.A. - Amman Community Choir at the Philadelphia Cine-Theatre, Jabal Amman on Friday and Saturday, 11 & 12/12/1987 at 8:00 p.m.

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Cocoa prices plunge in 'bloodbath'

LONDON (R) — The collapse of international Cocoa Organisation (ICCO) talks at the weekend sent the cocoa market into free-fall on Monday, with prices plunging to their lowest for five years on the London futures market.

Dealers said there was a 'bloodbath' when trading resumed at the start of the new week. Heavy selling wiped close to £100 (\$180) off values with cocoa falling to £1,040 (\$1,870) a tonne for March delivery.

The ICCO talks collapsed early on Saturday when consumers and producers could not agree on the terms under which to authorise buying to a buffer stock, needed to tighten an oversupplied world market.

Third World sellers, badly in need of foreign exchange, are likely to be pinched as prices weaken in a world market that looks like remaining burdened by an oversupply. Producers include such Third World debtors as Ivory Coast and Brazil.

Latecomers of West African cocoa crops might still help underpin the market, but some analysts believe the time has passed for this to have much influence on prices.

Cocoa from Ivory Coast and Ghana is starting to flow and as this gathers momentum in January through March the market will come under more pressure, they said.

Brazil's main crop has suffered drought damage and analysts said its production next year might also be affected by the dry conditions. But this was unlikely to alter radically the oversupply picture, they said.

The ICCO is to meet again in February but consumer spokesman Peter Baron of West Germany said at the weekend that consuming nations had seen the failed London talks as a last chance to rescue a world cocoa agreement.

The pact, including provision for a buffer stock, was introduced last January. But by June, the buffer stock manager had bought as much cocoa as he was entitled to without a new mandate from the ICCO council.

Since then, producers and consumers have differed in several rounds of talks on the terms under which he would be allowed to resume intervention.

"The credibility of the agreement is damaged," Mr. Baron said.

He said failure this time was all the more regrettable because producers and consumers both accepted a cut in the support price at which the buffer stock would be authorised to buy, an issue which had hitherto divided them.

But the two sides could not compromise on other measures to boost prices, Mr. Baron said. Some consumers objected to

proposals to penalise imports of cocoa from producers outside the ICCO, such as Malaysia, saying this would be against rules of the General Agreement of Tariffs and Trade.

Coffee talks expected to focus on two-tier market

Meanwhile, talks this week of the International Coffee Organisation (ICO) are likely to focus on charges that leading producers are getting round export quotas by selling at a discount to non-members of the trade group, delegates said.

They said the executive board of the ICO, a trade body of 74 producing and consumer countries, may discuss how to penalise countries which sell at a discount in this week's talks.

The meeting has been called to review the market since the introduction on Oct. 6 of export quotas designed to halt a slide in prices.

ICO export quotas apply only to sales of coffee to consumer countries which belong to the organisation.

Most producers, led by Brazil, belong to the pact. Among consumers, the United States and the European Community countries are ICO members. The Soviet Union, some other East Bloc countries and many states in the Middle East are not.

ICO producers themselves decided in talks in Costa Rica in November to apply sanctions against countries which sell coffee cheaply to non-members.

Leading producers are selling coffee to non-members at discounts of 10 to 20 per cent, trade sources say.

Britain's oil output declines

LONDON (OPECNA) — Britain's petroleum production during the August-October period declined by nearly four per cent to 30.80 million tonnes compared to the same period in 1986, according to figures released by the department of energy. Coal output during the period amounted to 20.70 million tonnes, a three per cent decrease over the same month last year, while that of primary electricity fell by 1.5 per cent. Production of natural gas totalled 1.30 million tonnes or an increase of 8.4 per cent, according to the figures.

Consumption of petroleum, including non-energy use, in the period was 18.90 million tonnes, a decline of 1.10 million tonnes — or 5.3 per cent — over figures recorded a year ago. The use of petroleum product deliveries in the period was 4.9 per cent lower than a year earlier and that of deliveries for non-energy use 4.6 per cent lower. The figures show that total domestic energy consumption of primary fuels during the three months was equal to 73 million tonnes of coal, representing little change over 1986.

Sudan seeks more money from expatriates

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's prime minister said in an interview he hopes to lure expatriate money from a pervasive black economy into state and bank coffers.

"We are looking into ways and means of really attracting remittances and drawing them into the Sudanese white economy," Prime Minister Sadeq Al Mahdi told Reuters on Sunday.

Remittances from its one million workers abroad are potentially a major hard currency source for impoverished Sudan but they continue to seep into the black market attracted, said Mr. Mahdi, by totally unrealistic exchange rates.

The government on Oct. 3 devalued the currency by 44 per cent to 4.5 from 2.5 pounds to the dollar and Mr. Mahdi said he believed this had the desired positive impact on the country's creaking, debt-laden economy.

"We have to wait a little bit to really measure what has happened. We shall be stock-taking in mid-January to see what has been achieved," he said.

Asked if the pound would be adjusted further to attract remittances, he said: "We will look into all possibilities."

The devaluation sparked riots in Khartoum and other towns in which at least four people were killed and scores injured.

The cut, agreed with the International Monetary Fund (IMF), was linked to sugar and petrol price rises.

Western economists in Sudan said the move was a courageous step in the right direction but the pound remained overvalued and the new rate remained far below that on the black market.

The black market dollar soared to a record nine pounds just after devaluation but has steadied around 7.5-8.0 pounds.

The economist said another devaluation — and a tough drive against illegal currency dealers — might be necessary in 1988.

Mr. Mahdi said an unrealistic-

cally valued black market pound was one of many distortions plaguing the Sudanese economy.

"Of course, the mutilations are there and the unrealistic conditions are there. But we really are not going to recognise them," he said.

Remittances from Sudanese expatriates, working mainly in Gulf Arab states, are now about \$5 million a month, computed with \$30 million three years ago.

The black market is not alone in denying the white economy expatriate funds.

Finance Minister Beshir Omar said a two-year probe into private banks in Sudan had revealed illegal operating which kept some money out of the country.



Sadeq Al Mahdi

Mr. Omar told a news conference last week that some banks had set up currency dealers abroad to buy expatriate savings.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq signs contract for satellite station

BAGHDAD (R) — Iraq signed a contract worth over \$17 million on Sunday for an earth station to link up with the Arabsat satellite project. The station, expected to be completed by a Japanese company within 14 months, will enable Iraqis to receive direct television broadcasts through Arabsat from other Arab countries with similar stations. It will also provide almost 500 telex and telephone channels. Iraq is a member of the Saudi Arabia-based Arab Satellite Communications Organisation, which launched the first Arab satellite (Arabsat) in February 1985.

Kuwait successfully curbs illegal labour

KUWAIT (R) — Hundreds of illegal immigrants in Kuwait rushed to take advantage of an amnesty letting them leave the country without penalty by Dec. 12, local press reports said. The amnesty was announced last September, and about 8,000 of the country's estimated 28,000 illegal workers have responded, the Kuwait Times said on Sunday. It quoted immigration officials as saying the amnesty would not be extended and tough measures would be taken against violators after the deadline. Newspapers reported huge queues at immigration officials and a scramble for seats on flights to the Indian subcontinent and the Philippines, from where many of the workers come. Foreign workers form 60 per cent of Kuwait's 1.7 million population. Authorities have sought to reduce their numbers as recession caused by lower oil revenues slowed economic activity.

Wall Street firm to cancel 1,000 jobs

NEW YORK (R) — Kidder, Peabody and Company said it would eliminate 1,000 jobs as part of a cost-cutting programme, the latest in a string of retrenchments announced by major Wall Street firms. Kidder, 80 per cent owned by General Electric Company, said the cuts followed a strategic plan under way for the past six months. In addition to the cuts, which represent about 13 per cent of its workforce, Kidder is closing about 10 per cent of its branch offices. It is also reducing 1987 staff bonuses by about 20 per cent. Kidder said non-personnel expenses will be cut by 20 per cent. The firm said total savings from the project would be about \$100 million. The job cuts are the biggest on Wall Street since Salomon Brothers said in September it would eliminate 800 jobs.

Vienna to sell 25% of Austrian Airlines

VIENNA (R) — Austria will sell part of the state-owned Austrian Airlines next year, a finance ministry official has said. Twenty five per cent of the airline would be sold to private investors next April or May. Mr. Winfried Braumann, an aide to Finance Minister Ferdinand Lacina, told Reuters. Austrian Airlines, which came close to bankruptcy in the late 1980s, is now one of the country's few state-owned companies which makes a profit. "The government wants to create a new generation of shareholders here. Austrian Airlines has a good name among the general public and we think it should bring some new investors to the Vienna bourse," he said.

Dhaka requests \$300m in aid

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh has asked for nearly \$300 million in foreign aid to finance imports and development projects, and to replace economic losses from recent political turmoil, officials said on Monday.

Finance Minister Mohammed Syeduzzaman appealed for the aid at a meeting with donors in Dhaka last month, one official said.

The official, who declined to be identified, said the government had drawn up an aid package of more than \$200 million to finance the "rehabilitation programme" this year. It expects the money would come as grants.

A consortium of 23 countries and agencies last April pledged \$1.85 billion to finance food imports and development projects.

Nearly 90 per cent of Bangladesh's projects under the annual development programme (ADP) are financed by foreign aid.

Planning officials said the government had slashed this year's 50-billion taka (about \$1.6 billion) ADP by two per cent to finance the flood-recovery programme.

Diplomats said foreign assistance to Bangladesh might be hampered or delayed due to current political problems.

"I think donors would still try to keep the food aid coming to save people from starvation and keep prices within commonman's reach," one Asian diplomat told Reuters.

"But they will certainly be hesitant about the project assistance under the current circumstances," he said without giving details.

State minister for food, Mr. Sardar Anwar Hossain, said here on Friday that Bangladesh had now 1.1 million tonnes of food-grains in stocks.

"It is good enough to face any short-lived crisis," he told reporters.

He said food prices remained stable despite intermittent strikes mainly because of imports arrived on time and despatches from ports were uninterrupted.

Normally, Bangladesh produces nearly 17 million tonnes of grains and import about two million tonnes annually.

But it revised the import target upward to four million tonnes for fiscal 1987-88 (July-June) following the floods, food ministry officials said.

Officials said the floods destroyed 3.4 million tonnes of rice, the main staple for Bangladeshis, and washed away 1,500 kilometres of road. Total flood losses have been estimated at more than \$2 billion.

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LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at midday on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Monday.

One Sterling	1.7930/40	U.S. dollars
One U.S. dollar	1.3105/15	Canadian dollar
	1.0705/12	West German marks
	1.8791/8001	Dutch guilders
	1.3633/43	Swiss francs
	34.90/93	Belgian francs
	5.6690/6715	French francs
	1231/1232	Italian lire
	132.78/85	Japanese yen
	6.0375/0425	Swedish crowns
	6.4675/4725	Norwegian crowns
	6.4450/4500	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	481.25/481.75	U.S. dollars

LONDON STOCK MARKET

LONDON (R) — The first day of the new account ended on a firm note, with traders marking the bulk of prices higher against the background of the steady dollar, dealers said.

The early small rise on Wall Street was to a large extent discounted and had little effect on a very quiet market. There was a total of just 223.4 million shares traded through the stock exchange automated quotation system (SEAQ) by 1500 GMT, which is well below the average turnover, dealers said.

At 1530 GMT the FTSE 100 share index had gained a net 18.9 points to 1,601.7, but Monday's thin conditions exaggerated the gains, with traders marking up prices to encourage business.

Brokers attributed some of the gains to buying for the new account, but expressed surprise at the extent of the rally. Some thought the gains overdone when the declines on the New York and Far Eastern stock markets late last week were taken into account.

"It's been so thin today that many of the gains are artificial and would be given back tomorrow if Wall Street does nothing spectacular tonight," one dealer said.

THE Daily Crossword by Peter Swift

ACROSS

- Canvas cover
- Race track
- Songbirds
- Site of Perry's win
- Function
- Be of use
- Reptile
- Milder
- Copied
- Made an
- equine sound
- "Lohengrin" composer
- USSR river
- "What a good boy —"
- Spiritually revived
- Equipment
- Book; abbr.
- Maxine
- Actual being
- Epochs
- de France
- Small cut
- Vishnu incarnation
- Pinks
- Summer drink
- Slavishly boor
- Fantastic
- Knowledge
- Doses
- momentarily
- Most likable
- Nazi security police
- A. Hancock
- Church
- feature
- Reptile
- Blockade
- Certain horse
- Unaccompanied
- Pealed
- Melody
- Looked at closely

DOWN

- Private eye
- Timetable
- de Oro
- Nut
- issued an edict
- Nullify
- Extravagantly
- Drugs
- Work hard
- Baseball state
- Reptile
- Hawkish bird
- Luge
- "Norma" e.g.
- Convent
- residents
- Vacillates
- Ethically neutral
- Reptile
- Scot. child
- Flirtatious one
- Della of song
- Actors' lines
- at times
- Fuel reserve
- Destruction of a kind
- Tooth part
- Leather worker's job
- Hurt
- Challenged
- Deeds
- Breaths laboriously
- Essayist
- Rower's need
- Actor Betes
- Old card game
- Doll e.g.
- Comida shout
- Serling or Steiger

Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

RAIL	COLTIS	ARAD
ALICE	ARABAE	LOUIN
ADAM	ABACAB	PUKE
INDIAN	ASIAN	SON
OTTIE	AMICETE	
ISLE	GAIS	
RAISE	LASTMOBRIAN	
RATAPAT	ROSTARE	
CONTRABAND	SPAIN	
RAMOS	AGES	
BREMER'S	PAINE	
PAI	ORRIS	LADDER
EVIL	RAMUE	ALIS
REIND	STABT	GEIS
RIED	TIETIT	ERISIE

Peanuts



Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



THE BETTER HALF. By Harris



"Did you know that many state-of-the-art office machines now contain lasers?"

JUMBLE THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

BOYTO

LUFEK

YOHWLL

TINOOL

Answer: BOYTO, LUFEK, YOHWLL, TINOOL

Yesterday's Jumbles: CYCLE DUSKY NUOISM KITTEN

Answer: What you might have to do in order to get your head above the crowd — STICK YOUR NECK OUT

Horoscope not received

Strike halts Bangladesh after Ershad dissolves parliament

DHAKA (R) — An anti-government strike brought Dhaka to a standstill on Monday after President Hossain Mohammad Ershad dissolved parliament the previous night.

Shops, offices, banks and factories were almost deserted with only some cycle-rickshaws and government buses under police escort operating.

Railway officials said trains were not running because many drivers did not turn up for work. River ferry services were also disrupted.

Police said there was little violence in the early hours of the stoppage. Some home-made bombs went off around the capital, but no one was reported hurt.

The strike took place only eight hours after Gen. Ershad dissolved the 330-member parliament following a three-hour cabinet meeting on Sunday night.

Informed sources said Gen. Ershad did not discuss the subject with the cabinet at all and that most ministers heard about it on a late-night broadcast by state television.

Ruling Jatiya Party sources said the president might also replace his 23-member cabinet with a council of advisers. But they could not say when that would happen.

They said Gen. Ershad's latest move would pave the way for talks with the main opposition parties which launched an unprecedented national campaign to bring his government down.

cided to resign but her party members said they would delay the move until Hasina was freed.

Gen. Ershad's Jatiya Party held 217 seats in parliamentary elections last May, while the Awami League had 73 seats and Jamaat 10 seats. Seven smaller opposition parties and independents have 27 more seats.

The opposition parties said the Jatiya won its majority by rigging the ballot. The government denied the charges.

Indian sources said Monday at least seven people were killed in clashes between police, opposition supporters and government followers in Bangladesh.

The sources in Agartala, capital of India's Tripura state bordering Bangladesh, said two people were killed on Monday when police fired at anti-government protesters at Lausballi, near the southern port of Chittagong.

Four opposition supporters were killed in police shooting and clashes with followers of the ruling Jatiya Party near Chittagong and the town of Cox's Bazar on Saturday, they said.

An opposition supporter was beaten to death on Sunday by Jatiya followers at Mahisadal near Chittagong, they added.

Police and demonstrators clashed again on Monday in Chittagong and Dhaka but reports were sketchy, the sources said.

Reports of the unrest have come from reliable Indian sources in Tripura and travellers arriving in Calcutta.

Rabuka remains power behind Fijian rule

SUVA (R) — Fiji's army commander, Brigadier Sitiveni Rabuka, will remain in firm control of the South Pacific island chain despite a return to civilian rule after eight months of turmoil, military sources said on Monday.

Brig. Rabuka, who stepped down as head of state on Sunday, would retain control of security forces as minister for home affairs in the new government of Prime Minister Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, they said.

Mara, who led the country for 17 years from Fiji's independence from Britain until elections last April, has yet to name his cabinet, expected to be dominated by members of his Alliance Party.

Brig. Rabuka, who took power after two coups, moved swiftly to dismantle the 22-member military council which had ruled Fiji since his second coup on Sept. 25.

The sources said the 39-year-old brigadier's move was aimed partly at curbing growing influence of the extremist indigenous Taukei Movement which was behind disturbances before the coup.

About one-third of Brig. Rabuka's military council were members of Taukei, which wants political and economic domination, for indigenous Fijians over ethnic Indians who slightly outnumber them in the 714,000 population.

Brig. Rabuka has warned Taukei leaders against any violent protest against the new civilian government. He named former Governor-General Ratu Sir Penaia Ganilau as the first president of his newly-created Fijian Republic.

Taukei leaders criticised Brig. Rabuka's decision to give up political control before his promised new constitution to ensure political supremacy for indigenous Fijians.

A Taukei leader, who declined to be named, said: "There is no guarantee that the constitution will be changed to meet the aspirations of the movement and the Fijian people generally."

Four supreme court judges appointed under the military administration were given termination notices to allow Mara to install an independent judiciary, the sources said.

Former Chief Justice Sir Timoci Tuivaga, whose appointment lapsed with the old constitution, may be asked to return, they said.

Najib frees 2394 Afghan prisoners

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — The Soviet-backed government of Afghanistan said it released 2,394 prisoners Sunday to commemorate last week's meeting of the Loya Jirga, the national council which rubber-stamped the country's new constitution.

State-run Radio Kabul, monitored in Islamabad, said verses of the Koran were recited as 2,300 prisoners left the central jail Sunday in Kabul, the Afghan capital.

It said Interior Minister Sayed Mohammad Gulabzoi and the secretary of the Kabul branch of the Communist Party, Zahoor Rezemju, were at the ceremony.

The broadcast did not specify if the inmates were political prisoners, but said they "praised the government of Afghanistan." It quoted one prisoner as expressing support for reconciliation between the Communist govern-

ment and guerrillas attempting to overthrow it.

The broadcast said an additional 94 prisoners were released in Jalalabad, the provincial capital of Nangarhar, east of Kabul.

It said the release was part of an amnesty announced by President Najib during the Loya Jirga meeting. Mr. Najib told the 1,500 delegates at the meeting that 5,000 prisoners would be released.

The weekly Ogonyok, one of the most popular and open publications under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's campaign for "glasnost," or openness, on Sunday published a six-page account of the life of Sergei P. Korolev.

Korolev's work for the space programme was so secret that it was not even hinted at by the Kremlin until he died of heart complications following cancer surgery in January 1966.

The magazine hinted that secrecy still surrounds the space programme and its personnel, publishing a version of a well-known photograph in which Vasily P. Mishin, Korolev's successor as chief space designer, is shown for the first time.

Mishin previously was cut out of the picture.

Ogonyok traced Korolev's life from his youth in the Ukraine to his work on rocket programmes for the Soviet military in the 1930s.

In 1933, at age 27, Korolev headed the development of the Soviet Union's first liquid-propellant rocket.

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Ogonyok went into detail about Korolev's arrest in 1938 after he defended other scientists who had been declared "enemies of the people," his detention in jail, then in labour camps in the Kolyman region of the far east of Siberia.

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Peking students clash with police over killing

PEKING (R) — About 500 students clashed with police near Peking city government offices on Monday as they marched to protest against the killing of a student, witnesses said.

Police manhandled the students from the University of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, who wore white mourning badges and carried wreaths to mark the stabbing to death of a student on their campus on Saturday, eyewitnesses said.

One protester was detained and police sealed off the area around the government offices late in the afternoon, telling a reporter he could not approach the building because a meeting was in progress.

Chinese witnesses said the students were angry at what they said was poor security on their campus and alleged the stabbing victim had not been given adequate treatment after being taken to hospital.

The protest began at noon with students marching around streets close to Tiananmen Square in the centre of Peking.

At about 4 p.m. they met officials of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and Trade, the university's parent organisation and later marched towards the city government offices, witnesses said.

Students said the stabbing victim had been killed by a "hooligan." The witnesses said the students did not appear to be making political protest.

Dec. 9 is the first anniversary of a student demonstration in Hefei, east China, which sparked off national protests calling for more democracy and freedom.

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COLUMNS 7&8

Mammoths may have survived Ice Age

LONDON (R) — Newly discovered skeletal remains of mammoths show the prehistoric beasts lived in Britain 5,000 years longer than previously thought and could not have died out in the last Ice Age, scientists have said. Leading mammoth expert Adrian Lister said the remains include an almost complete skeleton of a 30-year-old adult 12 feet (3.6 metres) tall and weighing 30 tonnes, and partial skeletons of three babies. "They provide clear evidence that the full-glacial episode of the last cold stage did not bring about the final extinction of the mammoth in Western Europe," Lister and geologist Russel Coope wrote in the leading Nature magazine published on Thursday. The article said radiocarbon dating based on an analysis of their teeth show the mammoths, an extinct form of elephant, lived 12,800 years ago — 5,000 later than previously believed. The well-preserved bones of the animals, distinctive for their great size, long hair and long curved tusks, were found in a pit in the central English county of Shropshire by a woman walking her dog on a country lane.

New reports raise WHO's AIDS total

GENEVA (AP) — Reported cases of AIDS rose by 3,534 to 71,751 worldwide, due to updated reports including large increases in Uganda, Tanzania and the United States, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has said. A total of 128 countries reported cases. The 32 reporting no victims newly included Sierra Leone in Africa and Kiribati in the Western Pacific, who said. Uganda, reporting the highest total in Africa, listed 1,251 new cases between Feb. 28 and Oct. 31 for a total of 2,369. Neighbouring Tanzania registered an increase of 478 between April 18 and Oct. 17 for a total of 1,608 victims. The Ivory Coast told who of 132 new cases, for 250 overall. The United States, which has two thirds of all reported victims, listed 1,586 new cases in the six weeks ending Nov. 23, bringing its toll to 47,022. The new data narrowed the gap between the number of reported victims in Africa and Europe. Africa now shows 8,490 cases, only 130 less than the 27 European countries reporting victims. In Europe, West Germany reported 86 new cases in October for 1,486 altogether.

Indian film wins top award in Hawaii

HONOLULU (AP) — Spices, an Indian film directed by Ketan Mehta, was named winner of the East-West Centre Award at the seventh annual Hawaii International Film Festival. Accepting the award Saturday night from East-West Centre President Victory Hao Li was Indian film critic Chittananda Dasgupta. Spices is about a village's resistance to a domineering landlord, set in the mid-1940s. The East-West Centre Award honours a film that best represents the centre's philosophy of promoting international understanding by providing insights that deepen appreciation of other cultures. The festival jury made a special award to the Chinese film Old Well, directed by Wu Tian Ming. Some 160 filmmakers and 26 film festival directors were in Hawaii for the weeklong festival that included free screenings of 150 films at 14 locations. The 1987 Eastman Kodak Award for excellence in cinematography was awarded to Korean cinematographer Jung Il-Sung. Other films nominated for the East-West Centre Award were Sea And Poison directed by Kei Kumai from Japan, Ngati directed by Barry Barclay from New Zealand and Matewan directed by John Sayles from the United States. The prize jury this year was chaired by Nagisa Oshima, the noted Japanese filmmaker. The jury included well-known Chinese actor and more recently writer and director Sun Daolin. Indian film critic and writer Aruna Vasudev and Gene Siskel, noted American newspaper and television film critic.

'Soviet police chief ran liquor racket'

MOSCOW (R) — A Soviet district police chief jailed for 10 years last week for corruption, sold stolen liquor in his police shop, the newspaper Selskaya Zhizn has reported. The former police chief of Volgograd district, K. Ivanov, found his salary "clearly inadequate to provide for lavish weddings for his two daughters, or for his men's gatherings or bathhouse entertainments," the newspaper said. "A special income was provided by a distillery, from which stolen spirits went not only to his table but also for sale at the affiliated shop in the police building," it added. Ivanov paid for magnificent receptions for former leaders of the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs, Selskaya Zhizn said. It did not mention names. Former Interior Minister Nikolai Shchelokov, a close associate of the late Soviet leader Leonid Brezhnev, was sacked in 1983 by Brezhnev's successor Yuri Andropov. Shchelokov's deputy, Yuri Churhanov, Brezhnev's son-in-law, was dismissed in 1984. The newspaper said Ivanov's deputy, A. Tyutyunov, had been imprisoned for 12 years, the Police Accounts Department Chief A. Kirilov for 11 years and the Chief of Security Guards A. Shumilin for five years.

1st AIDS hospital scheduled to close

HOUSTON (AP) — The nation's first hospital devoted to caring for AIDS patients will close its doors this week because of financial problems, its owner said. The American Medical International (AMI) Hospital chain, which owns the Institute for Immunological Disorders, announced in August that it planned to phase out operations at the facility because of operating losses exceeding \$8 million, but no date was given then. "The Dec. 11 data was chosen for employees to plan around," said Ann Wheeler, spokeswoman for AMI. "No official announcement was made." The last hospitalised patients were transferred or discharged from the institute during the first part of November, said Ms. Wheeler. The hospital has operated as an outpatient clinic since that time. Dr. Peter Mansell, medical director of the hospital, said about 30 patients are still being treated at the clinic. The patients will be referred to other institutions. The facility was opened in September 1986 to treat victims of deadly acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS).

Italy tries to buy masterpieces

ROME (R) — Authorities in Italy have seized millions of dollars worth of Impressionist masterpieces from a 70-year-old aristocrat and plan to buy them under an obscure law at a fraction of their market value. The works, including paintings by Van Gogh, Renoir, Cezanne, Pissarro and Gauguin, are owned by German-born millionaire Irma Lucy von Lutterotti who wants to move them from northern Italy's Alto Adige region to her new home in London. But the regional government in Bolzano, Alto Adige's capital, decided on Friday to exercise a right under a 1939 law to buy the paintings for 344.6 million lire (\$280,000) — the value stated on the application for an export licence. The law gives the state an option to buy a work of art at the value stated for export if the work is more than 50 years old and its purchase is deemed to be in the public interest. Italian newspapers have speculated that the works of art could be worth up to 100 billion lire (\$80 million). "The price is a joke," von Lutterotti's lawyer Siegfried Brugger told Reuters in a telephone interview from Bolzano. "I intend to take immediate court action to stop the sale and will fight this case to the bitter end." The works are being held at offices of the Ministry of Culture in Verona which blocked their export in September and offered the Alto Adige government the chance to buy them.

Rivals rally supporters in S. African township struggle

EDENDALE, South Africa (R) — Leaders of both sides fighting for power in Natal's black townships criticised each other at rallies on Sunday after a year of conflict in which it is estimated over 150 people have been killed.

Zulu chief Mangosuthu Buthelezi told his Inkatha movement supporters in Ulundi shortly after police reported two more deaths in township battles: "How in God's name can I be forgiving and how can I be forgetful?"

Socialist Congress Of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) negotiator Mhlanje Dumi-tani told a rally attended by 5,000 COSATU and anti-apartheid United Democratic Front (UDF)

supporters at Edendale townships near Pietermaritzburg:

"Comrades here today will never agree or accept peace talks if there are still Inkatha people (not arrested) who have blood on their hands."

Buthelezi told his supporters: "The UDF and Cosatu are not worthy of the status of organisations to whom we need to be reconciled."

The UDF denounces the Zulu leader for agreeing to rule one of 10 tribal homelands set up under apartheid to remove blacks from white South Africa, while COSATU denounces unions set up under the Inkatha banner as pro-capitalist.

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Soviet genius was sent to labour camp for 6 years

MOSCOW (AP) — The chief space designer who propelled a Soviet cosmonaut into space ahead of the United States was incarcerated in jails and labour camps for six years, a Soviet magazine disclosed.

The weekly Ogonyok, one of the most popular and open publications under Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's campaign for "glasnost," or openness, on Sunday published a six-page account of the life of Sergei P. Korolev.

Korolev's work for the space programme was so secret that it was not even hinted at by the Kremlin until he died of heart complications following cancer surgery in January 1966.

The magazine hinted that secrecy still surrounds the space programme and its personnel, publishing a version of a well-known photograph in which Vasily P. Mishin, Korolev's successor as chief space designer, is shown for the first time.

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Vienna mayor hints Waldheim could be forced from office

VIENNA (R) — Vienna Mayor Helmut Zilk has said Dr. Kurt Waldheim might not have the final word on remaining Austria's president if a commission checking his war record were to cast doubt on his integrity.

"Waldheim must have the first word on the results, but that does not mean he will have the last," Mr. Zilk told a television interviewer. He was the first leading politician to imply Dr. Waldheim could be forced to resign against his will.

Mr. Zilk, a prominent Socialist mooted as a possible successor to Dr. Waldheim, said a president should consider resignation if his moral competence were called into question to a point which cast doubt on his competence as president.

"If he has grounds to resign, then I expect the president to see the problems himself... we must wait to see what comes from the (commission's) debates and what decision he takes. And then we must sit down together and take the discussion from there."

Asked if the resignation question would depend solely on Dr. Waldheim, Mr. Zilk said he believed not. But he did not spell out how Dr. Waldheim might be removed from the presidency if he wished to remain after a

damaging report.

Dr. Waldheim, a former U.N. secretary general, said last week he would not regard the Historical Commission's findings as binding and that he was determined to serve his full six-year term.

He denies allegations he was involved in war crimes by Hitler's army in the Balkans and says he was unaware Jews were being deported.